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Foreign Ministry Expert on START II Treaty

PM0402135193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 93 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Oleg Sokolov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Department for Disarmament and the Control of Military Technologies, by Dmitriy Kosyrev, under the general heading "Discussion: START II Treaty"; place and date not given: "It Was Important for Both Sides To Succeed in Time"]

[Text] [Kosyrev] Let me start with a provocative question: Why did such an important treaty arrive on the scene literally like a rabbit out of a hat—most convenient for the departing G. Bush and for B. Yeltsin, who had been damaged by the Congress of Deputies?

[Sokolov] I think that it was an example of our making the right use of an opportunity to obtain an ideal agreement. Of course, President Bush had an interest—for both political and personal reasons—in crowning his presidency with a major treaty like START II. Our diplomats were able to exploit that interest to win favorable terms for Russia.

But I will come to the terms later... There is one other important point. It is well known that a change of U.S. administration—particularly when it involves a different party—usually means there will be a pause in our contacts as a whole. It was important to see that continuity was ensured in this central avenue of our relations (strategic arms limitation and the military-political sphere in general) from the very outset. As a result we have a treaty which was submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification by the Republican Bush administration, but whose implementation will fall to the Democratic Clinton administration. That is continuity.

One other point. The Americans themselves—Democrats included—told us privately that for domestic reasons it would be easier for them if the Republicans, who concluded the treaty, were the ones to submit it for ratification. Otherwise the Democrats might have "amended" it—since the new administration would have to come to grips with its own military priorities and the situation in the country and would be quite likely to put forward some proposals of its own on the treaty. In short, it would be more convenient for the Democrats to ratify a treaty submitted by the Republicans than to subsequently have to answer Republican charges that they had modified things in a good document.

[Kosyrev] So we grasped our opportunity... And what did we achieve?

[Sokolov] Let's look at how important the MIRVed missiles in service with Russia and the United States have been for strategic stability. I would like to recall that the history of MIRVed warheads does not begin with us. Development [razvitiye] of this kind of weapon—with several warheads per launch vehicle—was begun by the United States. It was the United States which first introduced this destabilizing weapon into its strategic arsenal. It was destabilizing because it was an attempt to circumvent the quantitative ceilings which our two states had agreed for launch vehicles. Now that we are to all intents and purposes giving up MIRVed warheads we will have greater stability and predictability and there will be less of a temptation to resort to a first-strike strategy.

That is one side of the coin. The other is that the concept of planning for our military organizational development proceeded on the basis that SS-18 missiles—that is, heavy missiles—would come to the end of their service life in the next 10-15 years and would have to be decommissioned anyway. They could not be replaced [ne podlezhali zamene] by similar systems. And, if you like, the whole point and one of the main advantages of the treaty is that we have essentially traded what for us was inevitable—giving up heavy land-based ICBM's—in return for commensurate [adekvatnoye] cuts in the U.S. strategic arsenal.

We should also take account of the fact that, under the treaty, the Americans are cutting their strategic forces to two-thirds of current levels, or to half the level they would have had under START I. You will agree that this is a very deep, major, and radical strategic arms cut.

[Kosyrev] And did it come about easily and without much of a fight?

[Sokolov] What can I say... Just take the issue of our retaining our launch silos. It is understandable that, if heavy MIRVed missiles were to be eliminated, the Americans would want to deprive us not only of the launchers themselves but of the silos housing them. But you can imagine that destroying existing heavy missile silos and building new ones for single-warhead missiles would be exceptionally expensive. From the very outset the Russian side raised this issue as one which seriously concerned it for economic reasons. I can say that this concern has been adequately reflected in the new treaty. Under the treaty we are able, without eliminating the silos, to use 90 of them to house new missiles permitted under the treaty. Questions also arose from the standpoint of the technical framework of such accords. For instance, to what depth should concrete be poured into the silos—which are several dozen meters deep—to reequip them so as to be unable to house SS-18's? We ultimately agreed that these silos, which would permit the siting of other missiles, would be filled to a depth which would rule out the possibility of their being used by SS-18's. Although the missiles are banned under the treaty anyway.

[Kosyrev] Incidentally, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has published an item about the possible use of the silos to bury toxic waste...

[Sokolov] When negotiating with the United States, what was foremost in our minds was to ensure that our security was not jeopardized. That is, to ensure that weapons permitted under the treaty—SS-25 missiles—

were housed in these silos. If we want to use the silos for something else, we must define our position [opredelitsya] ourselves. And then, if necessary, reach agreement with our partners.

[Kosyrev] We used to spend years negotiating—now we have concluded a treaty on such a scale in just six months. Has the work gotten easier or what?

[Sokolov] First, we had the START I treaty as our starting point, after all. Second, we had the framework agreement signed by B.N. Yeltsin and G. Bush. It formed the basis on which the new, internationally binding treaty would be founded. The job was to flesh it out. Was it easier to reach agreement? Well, agreements used to be concluded between our two countries in a confrontational atmosphere and were designed to limit the ceilings for the deployment of strategic forces. We are now engaging in real nuclear disarmament. This is a qualitatively new undertaking. But the new nature of partnership relations gives us a real opportunity to make faster progress on very complex issues. Now for the first time negotiations are ahead of the arms race, not the other way around...

[Kosyrev] Insofar as I understand it, there was another problem under Gorbachev—diplomats had their own diplomacy and the military had its own...

[Sokolov] There was a definite difference in our approaches based on the fact that our military colleagues knew what we did not, and sometimes vice versa. But if something did arise, it was only at the intradepartmental stage of work on an issue. Neither the Foreign nor the Defense Ministries negotiated with the Americans separately. And, anyway, this is too serious a matter for one department to be responsible for the full range of issues, which include Russia's security, its economic interests, and strategic stability worldwide...

[Kosyrev] So the natural question is: Kozyrev and Grachev, two departments working together. But how were responsibilities shared out? Take your department, for instance...

[Sokolov] We had several tasks—specifically, helping to elaborate an overall approach for different departments in implementing our government's foreign policy course so as to ensure that Russia spoke with a single voice on disarmament issues in the international arena. As for the joint work with the Defense Ministry on the treaty, on the whole we are both responsible for the treaty. The Foreign Ministry, naturally, was primarily responsible for the formulas and the international law aspects, while the Defense Ministry was responsible for the military-technical side. Military specialists attended expert discussions in Moscow and Geneva at all levels.

[Kosyrev] What about the treaty's international consequences?

[Sokolov] That is an inexhaustible question, but take just one aspect of it: We still hear other nuclear states—though not the United States—using the argument that they can only get involved in the nuclear disarmament process when the superpowers have cut their arsenals to levels comparable with their own (British, French, Chinese) strategic force levels. Well, we are now nearing the level of comparability of nuclear arsenals between the superpowers and the others. We have every justification for saying that they too should join in the disarmament process.

[Kosyrev] We can say it, but what about them?

[Sokolov] Some are already admitting that the quantitative parameters—that is, 3-3,500 units here and in the United States, and up to 1,000 held by them—constitute something more or less comparable.

[Kosyrev] Now there is our White House left...

[Sokolov] In the new, democratic Russia collaboration and cooperation between the two branches of power is absolutely vital. We can see great benefit in discussing the treaty as specifically as possible in the press, parliamentary structures, the government, and the military-industrial complex. As for the Foreign and Defense Ministries, we will be doing everything to explain the treaty provisions and all they mean for the future.

[Kosyrev] I take it from your tone that ratification is not expected to be smooth in the United States either.

[Sokolov] I think, incidentally, that it would be very useful for our parliamentarians—like U.S. senators—to cooperate with each other now that the documents are being studied by the commissions. For instance, by holding joint hearings, meetings of deputies, or even a TV linkup between the two parliaments. Then deputies could hear the other side's view so as to gain a better understanding of whether the treaty meets the two countries' security needs or not.

[Kosyrev] What if ratification is thwarted on either side of the ocean?

[Sokolov] We have to have faith in the good sense and responsibility of parliamentarians in the two powers. I think that they will be convinced that the treaty does indeed serve the two countries' interests. Incidentally, the positive assessments of the overwhelming majority of states (nuclear and nonnuclear, large and small) coincide—the treaty has received extensive international approval. Its failure would be a blow to the entire system of international relations, and to the new, fragile system which is only just taking shape. Such a step would damage the prestige of the country which took that step. That, I think, holds true for both Russia and the United States.

Colonel Wants START II Ratification Deferred

PM0502111593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 93 First Edition p 3

[Article by Reserve Colonel Petr Belov under the general heading "Discussion: START II Treaty": "To Be Or Not To Be—Deputies Will Decide"]

[Text] When you get down to it, the essence of the recently signed treaty is that Russia will be deprived of the foundation of its strategic arms. At the same time our partner can retain its armaments, getting rid of obsolete versions and retaining the ability to rapidly double the numbers of its new weapons. Moreover, the United States is creating conditions to ensure guaranteed protection for itself against nuclear warheads with the help of relatively cheap global ABM defenses.

The official interpretation of the idea behind the treaty is as follows—the threat of being pitched into the abyss of world war will be reduced through the elimination of our heavy multiple-warhead missiles; the security of the sides (Russia included) will not be reduced one iota; and the foundations will be laid for a new world order based not on equality of terror but on democratic values.

Why do I say that it is impermissible for us to destroy our multiple-warhead silo-based missiles—the "nuclear pistol" which still makes Russia the equal of other powers and deters them from any possible pretensions? First, these missiles carry the bulk of the nuclear warheads capable of repulsing an aggressor—be it in a surprise counterstrike [otvetno-vstrechnyy udar] or, probably, in a retaliatory strike. Second, none of our other existing nuclear weapons (subdivided in terms of their mobile basing mode into air-launched, sea-launched, or land-based) have this capability.

I will dwell solely on the latter. I have already briefly discussed this subject in the 3 November 1992 edition of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. I will use only openly available information about rail-mobile (RS-22) and road-mobile [gruntovoy] (RS-12M) missile systems (see table), as well as the laws of aerodynamics.

System	Number in Service	Weight (tonnes)	Length (meters)	Width of Wheel Track (meters)	Height (meters)
RS-22	Up to 36	95	21	1.52	Up to 5
RS-22 TEL (transporter-erector-launcher)		Up to 200	Up to 30	Up to 2.6	
RS-12M	Up to 315	35	17.5	2.1	Up to 5
RS-12M TEL		Up to 100	Up to 20	Up to 2.4	
Midgetman	0	16.8	13.8	3	2.75
Midgetman TEL		90	29	3.65	

Note: The American missile is included for comparison (it is now undergoing tests prior to assignment to the arsenal).

Using this table we can calculate that for these mobile missiles with these dimensions to be put out of action for a long time they only need to be... overturned. It turns out that this happens under only very slightly excess pressures. The detonation of a standard medium-yield nuclear warhead creates such pressure within up to a 10-km radius.

Something else that can make mobile missiles topple over is their angle of inclination under the effect of centrifugal or gravitational force. Righting toppled mobile missiles has been known to take up to a week of intensive work—and that in peacetime conditions. After being righted, the missile turned out to be non-mission-capable.

The aforementioned obvious shortcomings in our "road-mobile" RS-12M, the poor state of Russian roads, and the "linking" [privyazka] of a considerable number of these missiles to bases under the START I Treaty means that their survivability cannot be ensured through maneuvering. It is hard to believe that in the event of conflict anyone would decide to redeploy them at a speed of more than the supposed 30-35 km an hour even on straight roads, not to mention over rough terrain or when having to make turns. The enemy, aware of their current location through space-based intelligence, could easily destroy them (or topple them over) using its own submarine-launched missiles, safe in the knowledge that during the incoming missiles' flight time (up to 10 minutes) our missiles would not have time to make it a safe distance away (more than 10 km away).

But nuclear strikes are just the most extreme and barbaric means of destruction—there are far more simple and civilized ways of going about it. Namely, saboteurs and mercenaries—a railroad switchman or a marksman with a standard M-16A1 rifle with armor-piercing bullets.

Ordinary trains that overturn in this country usually burn to bits, despite the fact that Ministry of Railways fire-fighting trains are on hourly standby, ready to travel to the site of a crash. But our firemen are afraid to approach a derailed "RS-22 train," and rightly so—after all, they could be contaminated by the fuel at the very least.

Here we need to make it clear that experts claim that our nuclear warheads will not detonate even if left in "blue flame" for half an hour, and the worst that can happen is for the warhead contents to be scattered around. Should this be believed? Even the Americans have only just started equipping their warheads with conventional explosives that are not affected by outside heat. But what about our solid-fuel engines—won't they ignite and explode? If not, what explanation is there for the explosion at their assembly shops in Pavlograd on 24 May 1988, which put the production facility out of action for a long time? Or how should we assess the instructions to personnel to urgently move people up to two or three km away from the missiles in the event of their fuel igniting?

Now to turn to the penetration resistance of our mobile missiles and their solid fuel. Who would believe that the RS-22 and the RS-12M could be protected even from a U.S. M-16, which is capable of penetrating medium-strength steel more than 3 cm thick with armor-piercing bullets? The solid-fuel engine casings are not made of metal because launch canisters of such a size and thickness would be heavier than then entire transporter-erector-launcher. Consequently, one shot would suffice; there are not many threats to a saboteur; it would be hard to miss; and damage to the casing or warhead integrity would be enough to ensure an accident—if not immediately, then during launch.

Now to turn to the arguments about the alleged absurdity of the high assessments of the likelihood of accidents involving nuclear munitions. According to assessments by specialists at Chelyabinsk-65 and Arzamas-16, in terms of time periods we have to all intents and purposes already "worked up to" an accident involving heavy missiles that would be comparable to Chernobyl in its consequences. They calculate the likelihood at 0.1-0.01 for all nuclear warheads taken together, and the average time taken to "work up to" such an accident at 28-285 years. We have had nuclear weapons in service since the fifties, so are just starting to "enter" this range. That is why the specialists I have mentioned are sounding the alarm and demanding a review of attitudes to the problem of nuclear weapons security in the process of their operation and, particularly, their elimination, in order to completely terminate their elimination by existing means.

If an incident were to occur and nuclear warhead contents were dispersed, it would take 24,000 years for the level of plutonium contamination to decline—its half-life. This is if there is no "proper" spontaneous chain reaction, which is more likely. In that case... the thermal energy of our RS-22 and RS-12M nuclear warheads would reach 5.5 megatons, whereas the Chernobyl explosion was equivalent to a few kilotons of TNT at most.

The saddest part is that with the current specifications of the RS-12M and RS-22—which are not due to be cut—effective measures to eradicate their shortcomings are in principle impossible. But we are dragging "Belarusian" RS-12M's into the swamps and ice of Valday and are calling for billions to upgrade them and strengthen the defense of patrol routes. Well, since there have already been 10 instances of launchers toppling over, it means that there will be more accidents—this time quite near to Moscow and St. Petersburg—and what if these are not as "fortunate" as the ones before?

As for moving missiles into silos vacated under START I, we have neither the money nor the ability. We will not even be saved by the U.S dollars promised us for the safe elimination of nuclear warheads. And will we get that money anyway? After all, a lot has already been promised—remember the 24 billion. Nor is there any money to revive the Navy (trillions are needed); and Air Force renewal would be no less costly... In short, there is a sharp downturn whichever way you look, and yet we are tying ourselves up in new commitments and additional expenditure in hard currency—on inspections—not to mention how bad START II will be for our defense capability.

The answer, it seems to me, is to defer ratification until such time as all the consequences of the treaty's implementation have been looked into. To this end we need a highly competent parliamentary commission comprised of specialists who are not directly involved in the development [sozdaniye] and acceptance of existing mobile and other nuclear missile systems. For the past year I have been asking the highest authorities—from state committee chairmen and ministers to the president and Supreme Soviet chairman—to set up a commission on the RS-22 and RS-12M. Despite corresponding instructions from R. Khasbulatov and V. Vorfolomeyev (after a hearing at the Committee for Environmental Issues, which the latter heads) such a commission has still not been set up. There is still a stubborn silence about the problems of mobile missiles.

'Several Hundred' Former Soviet Tanks Missing

AU0502134393 Paris AFP in English 1213 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by Wolfgang Schweitzer]

[Text] Vienna, Feb 5 (AFP)—Several hundred former Soviet tanks have gone missing although they should have been destroyed as scheduled under the 1990 disarmament treaty concerning conventional forces in Europe (CFE), a west European diplomat said Friday. The West demanded clarification after the problem was noted last November.

But the latest figures provided on December 15 show that the "situation remains confused" regarding equipment targetted for destruction in the former Soviet republics, according to the source. He said there was some suspicion of "tampering" with figures.

"Several hundred" armored troop transport vehicles and artillery pieces showed up again on Russia's lists during the December review, after they were considered as destroyed on the November toll, the source said.

"We do not want to make a big deal out of this because we understand the chaos" in the former Soviet Union, the source said, noting that there was still time left since the CFE treaty, signed in Paris in November 1990, set a three-year deadline for destruction targets. "But we are insisting that the collective reduction obligations be carried out."

The 30 states that signed the CFE treaty—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries, Eastern European states in the old Warsaw Pact, and former Soviet republics in the treaty zone area which runs from the Atlantic to the Urals—sent representatives to a special conference here Friday. It was called to ratify an agreement between Prague and Bratislava on how they would handle their arms and troops reductions following the split of the old Czechoslovak republic into two states last month.

Under the 1990 CFE text, the Soviet Union said it had slightly more than 20,000 tanks and would destroy about 7,000 to give it a new total of 13,150.

When the Soviet Union became defunct, the treaty obligations were divided among former Soviet equipment in eight republics—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Kazakhstan.

But the source said it was clear that even under Russia's revised figures "several hundred tanks" are still awaiting destruction.

On other points, the source said Russia had dropped its strict interpretation of some of the complex inspection mechanisms outlined in the treaty which it had used last year to block western inspectors from certain military sites.

UN Official: Aid To CIS Republics Involves Risks

LD0402163793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva February 4 TASS—U.N. Deputy Secretary General and Coordinator for Urgent U.N. Assistance, Jan Eliasson, said that providing humanitarian aid to former Soviet republics, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan, involved considerable difficulties and risk. Nevertheless, the United Nations intends to continue its participation in humanitarian assistance, Eliasson said.

During a news conference he drew attention to an uneasy situation which developed in these four republics. He said that the international aid was needed since the results of economic reforms had not been achieved as quickly as expected. Another reason is an upsurge of ethnic conflicts and civil wars which worsened the population's problems.

According to Eliasson, the expansion of humanitarian operations in newly independent states demand considerable expenditures. A U.N. department for urgent aid has called on donor-countries to assign additional funds for this purpose, Eliasson said. In this situation support should be provided by international financial institutions and regional organisations, he added.

Nazarbayev Visit to EC, NATO Headquarters Viewed

PM0402162193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Vladimir Peresada report: "Nazarbayev's 'Triple' Visit"]

[Text] Brussels, 3 Feb—Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan, has visited Brussels. His visit was a "triple" one—to Belgium but also to the NATO and EC headquarters that are based here.

The Kazakh guest was received at the very highest level—by the king and prime minister of Belgium, the secretary general of NATO, and the president of the EC Commission. Judging by the results of the talks and by Nazarbayev's own statements, his visit to the "capital of Western Europe" was aimed at consolidating the growing autonomy of the foreign policy of Kazakhstan as an independent state.

The meetings at EC headquarters ended with an accord on the earliest possible opening of talks aimed at signing an agreement on partnership which will apparently be analogous to the document now being prepared between the EC and Russia.

In my view the Kazakh president's visit to NATO headquarters was the most interesting. As the first of the leaders of the former Central Asian republics of the USSR to visit it, he delivered a speech to the permanent representatives of the alliance member countries in which he not only outlined the priorities of Kazakhstan policy but also clearly set the tone for the general approaches which, in Alma-Ata's opinion, should help to ensure peace and security in the region. Nazarbayev set out in detail the idea of the conference on cooperation and confidence-building measures in Asia as proposed by his country.

Nazarbayev's formula deserves to be quoted. The security system from Vancouver to Vladivostok which excludes the southern neighbors of NATO and Russia, he said, could potentially be viewed as aimed against them and that would aggravate the North-South confrontation.

After expressing the hope that the idea of a conference in Asia will be supported by NATO, N. Nazarbayev also advocated the expansion of cooperation between Kazakhstan and this Western alliance.

All these things are new and unusual, of course. But such are the new realities.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 Feb

LD0502072393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 5 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 5 ITAR-TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA frontpages today the article entitled "President Set To Hold Referendum." In the opinion of the newspaper, the referendum scheduled for April "is necessary for President Yeltsin, even if it is a forced measure. Anyway, it is a measure approved by the congress. This is why Yeltsin may pay little attention to the discussions on whether or not the referendum should be held. This is exactly what he is doing." Chairman of the parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov does not oppose the idea of the referendum, the newspaper writes. He is just suggesting that the question about pre-term parliamentary and presidential elections be included into it.

In the opinion of PRAVDA, the idea of pre-term presidential and parliamentary elections is turning from heresy into a compromise.

TRUD carries an article by its political observer Vitaliy Golovachev which analyses the wage levels in various branches of the Russian economy. Last December average wages in industry stood on the level of 18,372 roubles. Workers of the gas industry get the highest wages—74,664 roubles. At the same time, average wages in the machine-tool building and tool-making industries were only 10,324 roubles, while for the instrument-making sector the figure was 9,332 roubles. The observer points out that attempts are being made in the country to put an end to the system of artificial levelling of wages. However, the excessive and ever growing differentiation of incomes may lead to the unjustified stratification of working people, which might have rather negative consequences.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with the well-known Russian economist academician Nikolay Petrakov, who is the director of the Institute of Market Problems. The interview deals with some military conversion problems. In his opinion, the part of the military-industrial complex which turns out competitive weapons and munitions should not be dismantled. "The weapons market does exist in the world, and pacifism is out of place here. Planes go on flying anyway, someone continues to buy weapons. So, why it should be Mirage and not MiG planes?" Petrakov said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA sums up the results of a one-day visit to Azerbaijan of the head of the Georgian parliament Eduard Shevardnadze on February 3. According to the newspaper, 22 agreements were signed during that short visit. The treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual security, regulating the fundamentals of inter-state relations, was the most important of them. The newspaper stresses that Georgia promised to stop the re-export of Azeri gas to Armenia.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a large analytical article entitled "Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: State and Prospects of Settlement." It was prepared by the centre of forecast study programmes (the Gorbachev-Fund) and the Expertiza Centre of Entrepreneurial Studies. The article stresses that Armenia should respect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, while the latter should recognise that it is Azeris and not Armenias who are the national minority in Nagorno-Karabakh. "In this connection it is necessary to approach in a new, original way both the problem of ensuring a proper legal status to Azeris in Nagorno-Karabakh and the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh itself within the framework of a sovereign state—the Republic of Azerbaijan," the article points out.

Newspapers continue to write about the resolution of the Latvian parliament of February 2 on the re-burial of remains at the fraternity cemetery in Riga. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA stresses that the Latvian parliament "decided to rid the Riga cemetery of the remains of Soviet soldiers" and expresses hope that the resolution will be reconsidered.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a short article which says, with reference to the press centre of the Latvian parliament, that the cemetery reconstruction plan "does not envisage the re-burial of any of the remains of Soviet soldiers, killed during the Second World War and buried there." The point at issue is the transfer of the remains of CPSU veterans, buried at the cemetery in the 70s and 80s. They will be re-buried at the expense of the Latvian state budget at another cemetery chosen by their relatives.

Kozyrev, Christopher To Meet in Geneva 25 Feb

OW0502113893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet in Geneva on February 25.

A report released by Russia's Foreign Ministry says that there are plans to discuss at the meeting salient international issues and Russo-American relations in the spirit of mutual understanding and partnership, "matching the current level of cooperation between Russia and the United States".

CIA, Western Agencies Accused of Targeting Security Services

OW2910182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 29 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Andrey Chernenko, head of the Center for Social Contacts of the Russian Ministry of Security, declared that several foreign special service agencies aim to cause a collapse in the Russian security organs. He made an appearance in Moscow Thursday [29 October] at a meeting between the Russian Security Ministry leadership and representatives of political parties.

Chernenko noted that the United States Heritage Foundation has prepared a memorandum for the administration with specific proposals which stipulate "fully abolishing the internal intelligence service and the Security Ministry." He said that recently the number of foreign special service agencies has increased in Russia and on the territory of its neighboring countries, including former Soviet republics.

In addition, head of the Moscow region administration Yevgeniy Savostyanov emphasized the Security Ministry's readiness to collaborate with Western special service agencies, including the CIA, in such areas as the fights against international terrorism and drug trade, saying that "the Americans are cooperating with us in checking the foreign bank accounts" of many Russian organizations.

The Russian Security Ministry's assistance in evacuating American diplomats from Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, was cited as an example of successful collaboration between the U.S. and Russia. In response to this Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal- Democratic Party and a participant in the meeting, remarked, "What did they rescue Americans for? Russians should be rescued, not these CIA personnel. They knew what they were in for, they should have smelled the gunpowder!"

Further on Swedish Prime Minister's Visit to Moscow

Yeltsin on Subs in Swedish Waters

LD0402182993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—Russian submarines will never enter Swedish waters, Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised after meeting Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt on Thursday.

The problem of submarines which have violated the Swedish territorial waters has for long posed a barrier in Russian-Swedish relations and was discussed during the talks, the president told reporters.

Yeltsin said that he had agreed with the prime minister to continue the dialogue until everything is cleared up in the problem.

"It is necessary that scientists and military experts jointly work out the methods of identification to determine whose submarines violate Swedish territorial waters", Yeltsin said.

After the talks the president and the prime minister signed a declaration on basic principles of Russian-Swedish relations, an agreement on trade and cooperation and an agreement on cooperation in ecology.

Bildt is expected to meet Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov on Friday and hold a press conference after which he is to leave for St. Petersburg.

More on Sub Statement

LD0402174993 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1645 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Carl Bildt met Russian President Boris Yeltsin today and in an extensive communique after the meeting the Russians agreed that foreign submarines have violated Swedish waters, but it was not said where they came from. This is Moscow.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Russian (?stand) so far with expert talks between Sweden and Russia has been that the Swedish evidence has been too weak. One has not even been able to say that the matter is about submarines, the Russian side said. But in today's extensive political declaration it says, I quote, that activity of underwater vessels took place in Swedish territorial waters. The parties are going to continue the work which has been started with the aim of finally reaching clarity in this problem, it says further. It does not go so far as to admit that it would be Russian submarines. The meaning of this is, on top of the fact that one now works from the starting point that the violations really took place, that the declaration is signed at the very highest level by the prime minister and the president. This can be interpreted to mean that the Russian side does not want to avoid the problem. Boris Yeltsin also assured at a news conference afterwards that no Russian submarines will violate the territorial waters of Sweden.

The meeting with Yeltsin was the high point of Carl Bildt's visit in Russia and the main result was an extensive declaration on political cooperation. Sweden had not earlier been in the habit of signing this type of communique. The fact that it takes place now can be seen as an expression on the fact that relations between Sweden and the new Russia have been taken up on a fully new level.

Kunadze Reports No DPRK Objection to Treaty Proposal

SK0502012793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0106 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—Russia has proposed to North Korea that they revise the 1961 Friendship and Mutual Assistance Treaty in accordance with the United Nations Charter, and North Korea has not objected to this proposal, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said Thursday. Kunadze made the disclosure when he met with South Korean Ambassador to Moscow Hong Sun-yong to brief Hong on his recent visit to North Korea.

Noting that the treaty was signed between the Soviet Union and North Korea during the Cold War era, Kunadze said he had proposed to Pyongyang that they exchange supplementary memoranda providing an interpretation of a clause in the treaty that calls for Russia's automatic military intervention in case of an attack against North Korea. Sources said Kunadze's explanation was tantamount to meaning that the Russo-North Korea treaty has virtually lost its character as a military pact since Russia wants to narrow the interpretation of the automatic intervention clause. Russia would honor the clause strictly in accordance with the United Nations Charter and only when North Korea comes under "unprovoked attack."

As a result, Russia and North Korea are expected to finish revising the treaty in the form of memoranda and a top North Korean Foreign Ministry official will visit Moscow this year, according to the sources.

Kunadze on New Ties With DPRK, Yeltsin Visit to Japan

OW0502124993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has suggested to North Korea that certain aspects of their bilateral relations should be revised in the light of what President Boris Yeltsin said not long ago in the South Korean Parliament. DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned this from Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze who returned from Pyongyang recently. When asked whether the delegation he led suggested that bilateral military cooperation should be ceased, and the treaty signed between the USSR and North Korea in 1961 should be radically revised, he declined to say either "Yes" or "No".

According to the deputy foreign minister, the North Korean leadership's reaction to Moscow's initiatives "was very positive, since we had come to find a new format for bilateral ties, not to break them or quarrel with each other".

The 1961 treaty gets extended every five years, and now it will have to be prolonged in 1995, Kunadze said. "As successor to the former USSR, Russia has to honor all its international commitments; it cannot sever the treaty with North Korea unilaterally," the highranking diplomat said. "Russia cannot revise it unilaterally either. This would create a bad, a dangerous, precedent. If we begin to revise our commitments unilaterally, others will do the same toward us, and we do not wish this to happen." Nevertheless Kunadze made it clear that even before 1995 Moscow intends to give "a new meaning" to the treaty, in particular leave no doubts that Russia and North Korea "are no longer states with a common ideology".

With reference to military cooperation between the two countries, Russia's deputy foreign minister said that Moscow will not supply Pyongyang with military equipment and special property on credit. According to him, this is ruled out, the same as the supplies of offensive weapons. As for commercial transactions, they are possible between Russia and North Korea on certain conditions - for instance, if they do not upset the balance of forces on the Korean Peninsula, and if they conform to the U.N. Charter.

With reference to Russia's relations with Japan, Kunadze positively assessed the fact that Japan's Cabinet of Ministers spoke in favor of inviting President Yeltsin to the July summit of G-7. According to him, the other participants in the summit are not likely to object to the Russian president's arrival in Tokyo.

As for Yeltsin's official visit to Japan, the main thing is to prepare it appropriately, said Kunadze. "If we manage to work out some modus vivendi as to the range of problems to be considered during the visit before the G-7 conference, I don't see why the president should not go there before the July summit," Kunadze said. "If we fail to do so, the visit will take place a little later. Two factors are important to us: that Japan doesn't link the G-7 conference with President Yeltsin's official visit; and that our president has said that he is not allergic to this visit." With reference to "the four islands problem", Russia's deputy foreign minister said: we must not be "too obdurate" as far as this issue is concerned. As

Kunadze believes, Japan's attitude to support for democratic reforms in Russia and for transition to free market there "is no less important" than its stand on the South Kurile islands.

Kunadze Interviewed on Return From DPRK

SK0502000493 Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze by MBC correspondent Ko Tae-sok at Scheremetyevo Airport in Moscow upon Kunadze's return from Pyongyang on 2 February; Kunadze's responses are recorded, in Russian, translated from Korean subtitles]

[Text] [Ko Tae-sok] In an exclusive interview with MBC News at Scheremetyevo Airport on 2 February, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said he asked North Korea to abolish the clause on military alliance in the DPRK-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance stipulating the Soviet Union's automatic military intervention in case a dispute occurs in North Korea.

[Georgiy Kunadze] We discussed the Russian proposal to abolish the clause on military alliance. We are waiting for the North Korean side to respond.

[Ko] He also said that Russia's basic position is to support nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and that Russia strongly urged North Korea to faithfully carry out its obligation as stipulated in the treaty now that the North Korean side has signed it.

[Kunadze] North Korea has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and we urged them Korea to implement this treaty completely.

[Ko] Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze said that the Russian side explained to the North Korean side that since the nuclear powers—the United States and Russia—have signed the historic START II, a rapid reduction of nuclear weapons will be pushed forward soon. Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze said that Russia stressed to North Korea that nonproliferation of nuclear weapons has emerged as a serious international issue. He explained that the important point in whether North Korea has nuclear weapons is not the existence of nuclear weapons but the technological potential. When asked if he thinks North Korea has nuclear weapons, Kunadze said:

[Kunadze] Whether nuclear weapons exist or not is not important. As far as I am concerned, I doubt they exist.

[Ko] Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze reminded the North Korean side that it has not signed the Chemical Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty, and he urged them to sign it.

[Kunadze] We discussed the nonproliferation of chemical weapons and a total ban on chemical weapons. The treaty on this was signed in Paris sometime ago. We urged North Korea to sign this treaty as well.

[Ko] Referring to Russian-North Korean relations, Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze said that their relations are not the special relations they had in the past but that Russian-North Korean relations will become relations of economic interests free from ideological bonds.

[Kunadze] Russian-North Korean relations will develop on the basis of freedom from ideological bonds and on freedom of choice. Economic matters are important now. We hope North Korea will repay the debt they owe us.

[Ko] He said that during his visit to North Korea the two sides discussed extensively the international situation as a whole, including Northeast Asia and the Korean peninsula, adding that the Russian side explained to the North Korean side that stability on the Korean peninsula also conforms with Russia's interests.

Defense Workers Reportedly Tried To Go to DPRK

LD0402183593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Evgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk February 4 TASS—A group of over 60 Russian defence researchers tried to leave for North Korea last October where they were offered a monthly salary of 1.5-4,000 US dollars, according to the CHELYABINSKI RABOCHIJ newspaper, which quoted local security officers.

All the researchers worked at defence enterprises and more than 40 of them were from the machine-designing bureau in Miass.

The composition of the group allowed it to create a warhead for a nuclear missile, according to experts of the Russian security ministry.

The group was detained in the Moscow International Sheremetyevo-2 Airport and was kept for two months in a rest house near Moscow.

The newspaper said that although the organisers of the trip were not found, each of the scientists received 40,000 roubles from them and left for home.

Some of them resumed work at their enterprises, others are still hoping to leave abroad, the newspaper said.

Kunadze's Remarks on Yeltsin Visit to Japan 'Misinterpreted'

OW0502121093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As IF [INTERFAX] has learned, some journalists have misinterpreted the Russian deputy foreign minister Georgiy Kunadze's interview, released by this news agency on Wednesday, February 3. They've alleged that the Japanese cabinet had already sent an official invitation to President Boris Yeltsin to arrive in Tokyo for a G-7 summit there in July. Mr. Kunadze did not say that, nor did he report it to IF.

To avoid any further misinterpretation of what Mr. Kunadze said, IF is reproducing completely word-for-word the appropriate part of the interview, the tape of which it has in its possession. Any other allegedly word-for-word reproductions of that part of the interview cannot be accurate.

QUESTION: "Could you say how things stand with preparation of a visit by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to Japan? There have been reports that the Minister Kozyrev may go there in late winter-early spring to concretely prepare the visit. There have been reports that Boris Nikilayevich will be invited to a G-7 meeting, even though it has not been done officially yet...."

ANSWER: "I can say only one thing. Japanese newspapers have reported that since Japan has been chairman of the G-7 as of January 1, the cabinet has decided first of all to examine as a major issue on the G-7 meeting's agenda the situation in the former USSR and assistance to the democratic transformations in these countries. Naturally, this concerns above all Russia. There has also been a report in Japanese newspapers that the cabinet has decided to invite President Yeltsin to take part in a meeting with G-7 leaders."

QUESTION: But as far as I know this decision is adopted and reserved by all G-7 countries. Japan alone....

ANSWER: Obviously. But given that, of course, this concerns only and exclusively the position of Japan. But I think it is serious and quite important for us since all the rest G-7 countries, as I understand, have not had particular doubts right from the start. And as far as concretization and an official notification on that goes, we do not have it yet.

Japan Denies Inviting Yeltsin To G-7 Summit

LD0402131193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo February 4 TASS—Japan denied it had invited Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the G-7 summit scheduled for July in Tokyo. "Such facts do not exist", spokesman for the Japanese government Iohei Kono told a briefing on Thursday commenting on corresponding press reports.

The Russian INTERFAX News Agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze as welcoming the Japanese invitation to President Yeltsin to attend the G-7 summit.

But Kono said the question of inviting the Russian president has not been settled yet. Japan cannot solve the issue by itself and consultations are necessary with other members of the G-7, he added.

Yeltsin Urges Boost in Arms Trade With India

LD0402145193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged the government to increase arms trade with India which he said opens an "immense market" for Russian weapons.

But "we still reduce the production and India is forced to reorient to the West although it is ready not only to pay us in hard currency for armaments, military hardware and spare parts, but also to create joint production with us", he told a meeting of the Russian government on Thursday.

"Did nobody know it before?", Yeltsin said referring to his visit to India.

Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Committee on Defence Branches of Industry, was criticised by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for poor analysis of the situation with conversion. The prime minister instructed him to prepare a thorough study and submit it in the near future.

Chernomyrdin stressed that defence industries are producing practically nothing for the national fuel and energy complex although they possess the mightiest economic potential in the country. As a result, fuel and energy-producing enterprises have to purchase equipment in the West, he said.

The same concerns the Interior Ministry. Defence enterprises have to produce the latest police equipment, Chernomyrdin urged.

The prime minister also demanded to stop illegal export of capital by those Russian regions and enterprises which were partially or completely exempt from paying export and import duties.

"Millions in hard currency remained in the West", he said and authorised a check of those enterprises who enjoyed foreign trade privileges.

Sergey Glazyev, the foreign economic relation minister, demanded to drastically curtail the privileges.

Kozyrev Says Security Council Should Back Vance-Owen Plan

AU0402143093 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, Feb 4 (AFP)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Thursday said the U.N. Security Council should support the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina and enforce it with sanctions.

"The entire weight of the Security Council and the power of sanctions should be placed behind this plan," Kozyrev told reporters following talks here with Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall.

His comments came as the U.N. Security Council discussed the plan worked out by U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance and E.C. representative Lord Owen that calls for carving up Bosnia-Hercegovina into 10 autonomous republics with a weak central government.

Kozyrev said "sanctions should be imposed against any side that refuses to go along with the principles of the plan."

"The fundamental framework is there," Kozyrev added stating that "details can be worked out" and that there is room for "adjustments."

But Kozyrev insisted that Russia was pushing for U.N. backing of the peace plan and its enforcement, stating: "This is the essence of our initiative."

The Canadian official added that she and Kozyrev had "agreed on the significance of sanctions" to enforce peace in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

MacDougall added that Canada "endorsed the approach" of the peace plan but not the details, without giving further explanation as to the Canadian Government's reservations concerning the proposals.

FRY Diplomat on Russian Approach to Balkan Crisis

MK0402141593 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No. 10, 28 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Yugoslav Embassy adviser Djuro Krnjeta by Eduard Baskakov; place and date not given: "New Mine in the Balkans?"]

[Excerpts] The fratricidal interethnic civil war in Bosnia and Hercegovina is not abating. It is bringing countless troubles, blood, and death to Serbs and Croats, Christians and Muslims. We read with anguish and alarm reports from the region we only recently knew as beautiful Yugoslavia... The entire world community is concerned at the worsening situation in the Balkans. But is everybody doing everything to promote an end to the conflict and aid political dialogue over Bosnia in the name of restoring peace to Yugoslav soil? Djuro Krnjeta, adviser of the Yugoslav embassy in Moscow, answers our correspondent's questions [passage omitted]

[Krnjeta] There is no single attitude to the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina in the world. And, of course, the calls being heard in some places in the West for the problem to be resolved by military means and the movement of U.S. aircraft carriers to the shores of Yugoslavia are not a contribution to the cause of a peaceful settlement. [passage omitted]

[Baskakov] But what comment could you make about Russia's stance, Mr. Krnjeta?

[Krnjeta] I believe that in comparison with other capitals Moscow is considerably better placed to realistically assess the present situation in Yugoslavia. This is due partly to the long history of close cooperation between the two countries and party to the fact that Russian has its own interethnic problems. And we are grateful to Russia because, as you know, it came out against the proposals made in the West that Yugoslavia should be "cut off" from the world community and the CSCE process.

However, in the UN Security Council Russia did vote with the majority on the question of sanctions against Yugoslavia (only China, India, and Zimbabwe abstained). And naturally this resulted in some rather emotional criticism and disappointment in our country.

But in Russia too—even in the Supreme Soviet—people are speaking out against sanctions and proposing that more attention be paid to promoting a political settlement of the crisis.

Let me add that, regrettably, the working meeting that was planned recently between President Boris Yeltsin and Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic (he was in Moscow on his way back from a trip to Beijing) did not happen. But we hope that a Russian-Yugoslav summit meeting with take place, after all, in the near future and will have a beneficial effect on resolving the present problems.

[Baskakov] What should we hope for?

[Krnjeta] That a balanced approach to the Bosnia-Hercegovina problem will prevail. That the deadlock will be broken at the talks on this problem. As for Yugoslavia, it is prepared to recognize and support any agreement that is voluntarily accepted by all three communities in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Russia To Send Humanitarian Aid to Belgrade

LD0502120293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—Russia is sending 10 heavy trucks with international humanitarian aid to Belgrade on Saturday, TASS learned from the state committee for emergencies. They will be accompanied by two refuelling vehicles and a mobile servicing station.

Russian representatives will work in Yugoslavia under the aegis of the department of the Supreme U.N. Commissioner for Refugees.

Shokhin Cites Ukraine Disagreement on Former USSR Debt

LD0402222793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Russia and Ukraine have continued their efforts to try and find a way of settling the dispute over the assets and liabilities of the former USSR. The attitude of the Paris Club, which defines the procedure for Russia to service its foreign debt, largely depends on what solution is found. The last deferment of the debt payments by three months granted to Russia by the Paris Club, the international financial organization of Western creditor nations, expired on 1 January.

Now, what obstructions are there to Russian-Ukrainian talks? Radio Moscow's reporter put this question to Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin:

[Begin Shokhin recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] Russia offered assuming the responsibility for managing the foreign debt and financial assets of the former USSR on the condition that the distribution of the debt and the assets be subject to further talks. The creditors would like the matter to be settled under precisely this pattern, the transition of the management (?rights) and not the liabilities and assets proper. Ukraine found that option unacceptable. Motivated by its national and—most likely—political interest, it suggested dividing the debts and financial assets of the former USSR. The option is technically very complicated. It must be studied from the professional point of view. Is it feasible at all? We have suspended the talks to study both options. [end recording]

One of the new and encouraging signs the Russian-Ukrainian talks may be successful is that creditor nations from the Paris Club have joined the discussion. Paris Club officials are expected to arrive in Kiev shortly, where there will be more talks between Russia and Ukraine on the foreign debts of the former USSR.

Kozyrev, Ukraine's Zlenko To Meet in Tyumen

OW0402202993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tyumen regional administration told Interfax that the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine will meet in Tyumen sometime in mid-February. A working group of Ukrainian representatives has already conducted preliminary talks with the leaders of Tyumen oil associations on possible versions of the interstate agreement which is planned to be signed in Tyumen.

Yuriy Neyelov, deputy head of the regional administration, told Interfax that the main issue on the agenda for the prime ministers' meeting "will be oil." He said Ukraine ought to receive 20 Mn [million] tons of oil each year from Tyumen, but due to a decline in the level of extraction in oil fields, today the figure has not exceeded 8 Mn tons.

Meyelov proposed that at the meeting the prime ministers also discuss the status of Ukrainian citizens working in Siberia (in certain oil regions, some information indicates that up to 70

of the workers are Ukrainian—IF [INTERFAX]). He did not rule out the possibility that an intergovernmental accord might be signed on this issue.

Grachev Reports to Yeltsin on Tajikistan Peacekeeping Force

LD0502105893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Dushanbe February 5 TASS—After returning to Moscow, General Pavel Grachev intends to report to President Yeltsin about the state of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division and the need to beef it up. He said so today, addressing in Dushanbe the personnel of the 201st Russian division. Grachev will insist on speeding up the sending of peacekeeping battalions to Tajikistan for strengthening the border with Afghanistan in accordance with the decision of the CIS summit in Minsk.

Commenting on the results of the talks with Chairman of the Tajik Parliament Imamali Rakhmanov, he pointed out that the status of the 201st Division had been made clear. A Russian-Tajik treaty on military cooperation is being drafted, as well as the agreements on the legal status of Russian Army units, deployed in Tajikistan, the principles of their manning and material and technical supply.

On the same day Chairman of the Tajik Parliament Imamali Rakhmanov and General Pavel Grachev flew to Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube in order to see for themselves the living and working conditions of Russian officers and men in far-away garrisons.

Trade Official Says Russia To Produce, Supply Arms

OW0402171093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and Dimitriy Voskoboynikov; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Major-General Sergey Karaoglanov, the chairman of the foreign economic trade association "OBORONEKSPORT", has told "Diplomatic Panorama" that the current situation on the world armaments market was severely competitive. He added, however, that

Russia had genuine opportunities to make an impact here. Karaoglanov said that the many types of Russian fire arms available for export together with the range of military hardware were up to world standards, if not superior to foreign makes.

Russian arms dealers, he said, must not surrender those markets which had traditionally served the former USSR and, subsequently, Russia. The markets concerned included India, China, Syria, Algeria and nations from Eastern Europe.

Karaoglanov was of the view that issue of debts outstanding to Russia from countries like Syria and those from Eastern Europe could be resolved without having to break off collaboration in the development of military technology. These countries have not yet settled accounts despite Russia adopting a rigid line and suspending supplies. All the same, the chairman said, Russia risked losing these markets. He stressed that it would be essential to achieve a clearly defined balance between Russia's political and economic interests taking the long term prospects into account.

Frequent fears that Eastern European nations are about to "desert" Russia and seek other arms suppliers had no real grounds, Karaoglanov said. To change arms suppliers, especially aircraft suppliers, would be "very costly", he said, and all countries, when purchasing military hardware, were governed not only by political considerations but also by economic ones. These nations received military hardware and arms from the USSR and Russia for many years and, together with these, spare parts and repair services.

Regarding the recent sale of US aircraft to Finland, Karaoglanov pointed out that "whatever has been spoken, the USA and Russia remain competitors in this sphere and this competition will always remain. However the arms trade is a matter not only of the dollars involved, but also of Russia's political interests, like those of any nation.

Although, for obvious reasons, the major-general did not quote any precise figures, he did confirm that arms supplies by Russia to other nations had gone down by around one third last year. The main reasons for this, he considered, were political, as Russia had lost clients like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Yugoslavia.

Nevertheless, he said, Russia did make a profit in hard currency and goods (the same quantities as for 1990 and 1991) last year despite reducing supplies.

Chernomyrdin Meets With GATT's Dunkel 4 Feb

OW0402204293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2009 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [4 February] in Moscow, Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin met with Arthur Dunkel, general director of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), and discussed Russia's relations with one of the most authoritative international forums in the contents of Moscow's intentions to join General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Russian party pointed out that if Russia enters GATT as its full member it could expand its foreign trade opportunities, recognizing internationally accepted principles and rules. This would meet interests of GATT country-members and facilitate strengthening of international trade system.

On his part Dunkel expressed his understanding with respect to Moscow's position and declared about readiness of GATT secretariat to render assistance in Russia's entering General Agreement.

Kozyrev Meets Visiting Canadian Foreign Minister

LD0402173493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—"The visit of Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall to Moscow has demonsrated once again the closeness of Russia's and Canada's approaches to a number of international problems and gave an opportunity to assess what has been done for the development of relations between the two countries," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said on Thursday upon completion of talks with the Canadian foreign minister.

Kozyrev said that the present Russian-Canadian talks took place on a reliable basis of a treaty of a new type which was signed during an official visit to Canada by President Boris Yeltsin. "A visit of the Canadian prime minister to Moscow is expected soon," Kozyrev said.

The two foreign ministers discussed the state of Russian-Canadian relations and a number of regional problems.

Asked about the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, the Canadian foreign minister said that Russia and Canada assumed common positions on this problem and are interested in the soonest ceasefire in the region. The Canadian minister emphasised that the Canadian side acknowledges that it is necessary to take all possible measures, to support steps taken by the U.N. Security Council aimed at the settlement of the crisis in Yugoslavia.

On Friday, the Canadian foreign minister is to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Fyodorov Meets Foreign Minister

LD0502095393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Oleg Polovko]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—In violation of the accepted norms of protocol and to the joy of interpreters, Russian Vice- Premier Boris Fyodorov, who met Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall here today, preferred to speak with her himself in fluent English.

The vice-premier and the distinguished guest have discussed some aspects of the domestic situation in Russia, have exchanged views on the current state and prospects of bilateral relations. Fyodorov described the situation in the Russian economy and the government's plans, taking into account his programme of actions for the current year. The sides touched on the problems of settling Russian debts for Canadian credits and also possible Canadian assistance to Russian reforms. They also discussed the political situation in Russia, including the dialogue conducted by the new Russian Government with different political forces in the country.

Bulgarian Premier Assesses Bulgarian-Russian Relations

LD0402161193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stepanenko]

[Text] Sofia February 4 TASS—"The importance of relations between Bulgaria and Russia stems from the fact that they are deeply rooted in history and are based on really fine traditions," Bulgarian Prime Minister Lyuben Berov believes. "In our days the two countries are definitely being brought closer to each other by the fact that they have both embarked upon the road of democratic transformations and are implementing various economic and political reforms," he told ITAR-TASS.

Professor Berov (economics) is not affiliated to any party. He heads a government which was formed at the very end of 1992, after a two-month-long government crisis. He also temporarily discharges the functions of foreign minister. His cabinet has declared the intention to continue the reforms started in the country, but with proper account of the population's social interests. Plans are afoot to organise shortly a visit to Russia of a Bulgarian government delegation led by Berov. It is linked here with hopes that it will help overcome the current difficulties in economic relations between the two countries.

"Of course, there are problems which tell in this or that way on the development of Bulgarian-Russian relations," Berov said. "For instance, two tendencies have appeared in Russia's political life. One of them is distinctly reformist, while the other is backed by some people, who doubt the need of economic reforms. I don't want to say that all the Bulgarian population is politically united, but in our country this division is much less pronounced," the premier noted.

"The economic relations between the two states could have been more intensive if not for the substantial differences in their economic structures," Berov believes. "The extent of reforms aimed at setting up market mechanisms is not the same. Russia is now embarking upon reforms, in the implementation of which we have already achieved some results," he explained.

"The task of stepping up cooperation is linked with the solution of several problems," Berov stated. "For instance, it is necessary to find some version of clearing exchanges to facilitate mutual settlements. Barter deals cannot solve the problem," he added.

"It is necessary to improve transport conditions for trade between Bulgaria and Russia," Berov continued. "The Varna- Ilyichevsk ferryline can no longer play its former role, because Ilyichevsk is now a part of Ukraine."

"It is worth concluding an agreement on the reciprocal prevention of double taxation," Berov stated. "There is one more matter awaiting its solution: The settlement of debts to Bulgaria, which Russia has inherited as a successor of the Soviet Union."

"A considerable part of the weapons used in the Bulgarian Army was produced in Russia," he recalled. "Some of them we can produce ourselves, but most of the spare parts will have to be bought in Russia. For our part, we could supply Russia as before with some types of hardware."

"We have every opportunity to promote much more intensive economic relations between the two countries," Berov stated.

Yeltsin Aide Interviewed on Foreign Policy

PM0302165593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 5

[Interview with D.B. Ryurikov, the president's aide for international affairs, by Ye. Kalyadina; place and date not given: "President's Open Visa"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] As we know, the presidents of all countries and peoples have a common guide to action. If matters are going badly at home that means something impressive must be done on the foreign policy front. The leader of the new Russia has been no exception here. And although no one foreign policy action, however forceful, can now startle the power worn out by its renewal, Boris Yeltsin is demonstrating increasing activeness in international affairs. And if he is failing to impress either us or the world around us with this, then he is undoubtedly drawing attention to himself and his initiatives. Our correspondent talks with D.B. Ryurikov, the president's aide for international affairs, about how these initiatives emerge.

[Kalyadina] Dmitriy Borisovich, what foreign languages does the Russian president know?

[Ryurikov] He has studied German and French and understands what is being said in those languages, but does not use them actively.

[Kalyadina] What relations exist between the president and the Foreign Ministry? In my work as a journalist I have come across a situation whereby the Foreign Ministry has, to put it mildly, not been informed of any Yeltsin foreign policy initiative. I remember when after a statement he had made during a visit to Bulgaria regarding the recognition of Macedonia, I telephoned the Foreign Ministry to find out what the reaction had been and received more or less the following reply: Well, the president has made a decision and there is nothing for us to do but rubberstamp it...

[Ryurikov] The president has the right to make a decision on a particular foreign policy issue. And if this decision is unexpected for the Foreign Ministry, well, that happens. But in general Boris Nikolayevich respects its professionalism and makes almost daily use of its materials and is familiar with its problems and strong and weak points. So that relations are as they should be—close and workmanlike.

[Kalyadina] But is this closeness not reflected in the fact that the Foreign Ministry supporters the president's domestic policy status quo? An indicative example is Andrey Kozyrev's oratorical show in Stockholm, which caused a lot of noise. At the time REUTER reviewed it as follows: "If it was Kozyrev's intention to draw attention to Yeltsin's domestic policy problems, then he has succeeded." In resorting to such unexpected methods of the theater of the absurd did the foreign minister speak on the president's behalf? In addition we can recall the rumors which were vigorously circulated beforehand about Kozyrev's imminent resignation which, however, did not ensue...

[Ryurikov] At a joint press conference with Chancellor Kohl, held soon after Kozyrev's Stockholm speech, Boris Nikolayevich said that he did not give Kozyrev powers to speak like that. But at the same time he voiced understanding of the motives and the emotional situation in which the minister's speech took place. At that time the congress was at its culminating point—and obviously it was under the impact of this stress that Kozyrev had made his statement. I am sure that there was no agreement that the minister was to appear to be speaking in the president's name—it was his own personal step.

[Kalyadina] The foreign ministry is constantly accused of lacking a foreign policy concept. Does the president have such a concept?

[Ryurikov] You know, over the past year I have constantly been hearing talk that the Foreign Ministry or Russia lacks its own foreign policy concept. That is untrue. There is a concept and a long time was spent writing it, honing it at scientific forums and in the Foreign Ministry, and examining it in Supreme Soviet committees. That some people do not like Russia's foreign policy is another matter but why say there is no concept? The present foreign policy concept is the concept and, incidentally, the practice, of the diplomacy of the new Russia. It is the rejection of messianism, it is relations of partnership with those states which were previously our potential enemies, and it is the transition to normal interstate communications—without privileges—with our former "ideological allies." The main thing is that now a determining role in Russia's foreign policy is played by its specific, real interests and not by abstractions by which we were guided earlier.

[Kalyadina] But will this healthy pragmatism in our deideologized foreign policy not lead to a lack of ideas in it? A fresh topic for thought is the recent visit by our military men headed by Pavel Grachev to the Near East. The United Arab Emirates have been sold sophisticated weapons which, it has emerged, we are delivering just as successfully to its enemy—Iran...

[Ryurikov] Of course, the indiscriminate sale of arms would be immoral. But so far these operations are controlled and their principle is not to violate the stability and balance of forces and peace in a particular region.

[Kalyadina] Russia has drastically changed the circle of its friends and the circle of its enemies. What are its criteria now for determining the former and the latter?

[Ryurikov] Above all I hope that we now have no enemies. Actually that is the main point of our foreign policy—to have no enemies. And the criteria for selecting partners are their attitude toward Russia and their readiness for cooperation which would benefit primarily Russia.

[Kalyadina] But is the result not that this benefit is of an exclusively material nature? And we are more eager to embark on contacts with those who can offer us direct material aid today, right now?

[Ryurikov] In my opinion it is a natural desire to develop relations with those states which have more opportunities. But that does not mean that we are rejecting specific business with a country which has fewer such opportunities.

[Kalyadina] Yes, but after all we have already relegated to the background our relations with our former socialist partners. And in my view that is not only because we must experience natural complications from the time of ostentatious brotherhood. It is simply that our former brothers' coffers are empty, as they say. Yet but what if we did not abandon at a strike everything we have experienced together but take an unprejudiced look at what has nonetheless been done then clearly it is possible to gather up far more than will fit into a pauper's purse?

[Ryurikov] No, the countries you mention have by no means left us and we have not left them. The point is that they are now experiencing similar processes to ours and opportunities for trade and economic cooperation are now limited both for us and for them. But that by no means signifies that we have betrayed our former desire to have the best relations with them.

[Kalyadina] Many people are inclined to view the president's foreign policy activity as unpredictable. Examples are the above-mentioned recognition of Macedonia, the unexpected rescheduling of the visit to Japan. Unpredictability—is that Boris Nikolayevich's style or is it a tactic?

[Ryurikov] On the Macedonian issue the president proceeded primarily from the aim of protecting this territory against possible military consequences of the crisis which has flared up nearby. In principle a particular decision of the president's can be predicted, knowing his support for measures designed to prevent confrontation and to protect people.

As for the rescheduling of the visit to Japan, that was a grave step for Boris Nikolayevich. He made this obviously complex and unpleasant decision on the basis mainly of the domestic reaction which could have ensued if a solution to problems of interest to Russia had not been found or had been unsatisfactory. That showed the president's special attention toward the internal factor in foreign policy. And in general we must consider the situation in which Russia has now been placed. These are special times, there are special circumstances, stresses, and tension in resolving particular issues. Of course, that cannot fail to influence the president's style. But that by no means signifies that a rapid or let us say unexpected decision is bad.

[Kalyadina] Does the Russian president have any sympathies in the international sphere? For instance, in addition to official relations is he linked with any foreign state leaders by simple relations of friendship?

[Ryurikov] I have not noticed him to have any preferences. Boris Nikolayevich tries to see merits in everyone with whom he meets and he succeeds in forming quite close and informal relations with everyone.

[Kalyadina] How great is Boris Nikolayevich's purely human interest in the countries which he visits?

[Ryurikov] His interest is great but opportunities for displaying it in specific ways are small because of the busy schedule for his visits. Nonetheless in each country Boris Nikolayevich succeeds in absorbing its atmosphere. He has a need to go out to people, to communicate with them, to make jokes with them. The president likes doing that....

Wider Role for Foreign Intelligence Urged

PM0402112593 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 6

[Arkadiy Voropayev article under the "Polemical Notes on Russian Foreign Intelligence" rubric: "Ambassadors Want To Move in Dark"]

[Text] The situation whereby the book market, the movies, and television are crammed full of thrillers about the adventures of James Bond and similar "macho" intelligence officers, while the elementary concept of just what intelligence is is entirely lacking, appears a paradox nowadays. The "Great Soviet Encyclopedia," the "Philosophical Encyclopedic Dictionary," the "Military Encyclopedic Dictionary," and other fundamental works of this kind contain definitions of concepts such as "reconnaissance for oil," "fish reconnaissance," "military intelligence," etc. But nowhere will you find the concept "foreign intelligence" or simply "intelligence," as though it does not exist at all.

In the widespread literature of the thriller genre the concept "intelligence" is set forth as follows: "Intelligence is... political activity aimed at revealing the enemy's secret schemes and plans and combating him using secret means and methods." There is also a somewhat shorter wording: "Intelligence activity is a secret form of political struggle in the international arena." The groundlessness of such an approach to defining foreign intelligence may be demonstrated with the following example. It is an open secret that the United States and Israel, those friends and strategic allies, spy on each other. What is more, Washington is well aware of the priorities of Israeli intelligence in the United States. They are revealed quite clearly in a secret CIA report prepared in the past, which pointed out, in particular, that "the Israelis orient a significant proportion of their secret operations toward obtaining intelligence information of a scientific and technical nature. These operations also include attempts to obtain information on some secret military projects both in the United States and in other Western countries." The report emphasized that Israeli intelligence also "gathers information on secret U.S. policies and decisions—if they exist—which affect Israel in one way or another." The CIA also engages in intelligence in Israel in just the same way, in full. But does this prevent Washington and Tel Aviv from maintaining relations as allies? In no way. This is because in the United States and Israel, as well as in other countries, intelligence activity is perceived as a manifestation of the inevitable and therefore necessary mistrust that has always existed and will exist between people and states. "We must know each other and be capable of observing each other"—this is the explanation of the purpose of intelligence given by David Cornwell, a professional British intelligence officer better known as John le Carre, master of the thriller.

In our country the false impression of intelligence as just a form of political struggle against an enemy has developed in some people into incompetence and in others into a steady psychological barrier which many have still not managed to overcome.

A vivid example of incompetence and of a failure to understand the very essence and purpose of intelligence is provided by V. Bakatin's activity in the post of KGB chairman. It is sufficient to recall his discourse, published in IZVESTIYA in the fall of 1991, with regard to reforming various KGB structures, including foreign intelligence, which was then part of the KGB. Predicting its future, this sorry reformer totally denied the sovereign republics of the former Union the right to have their own intelligence services. He declared in a peremptory tone at the time that "it is absurd for each republic to create its own intelligence service... Are we going to start spying on each other?"—he said indignantly. But intelligence, if it serves not itself but the national interest, has never anywhere been considered anything reprehensible.

It would hardly be worth recalling these incompetent maxims if we were talking of Bakatin alone. The trouble is that a similarly blindered view of intelligence and its role in the state is, unfortunately, revealed in the statements of politicians and diplomats who are now active and even in the activity of entire state structures. In particular, an utter failure to understand the role and place of intelligence in the state's foreign political activity was repeatedly demonstrated by B. Pankin as soon as he found himself in the post of foreign minister in August 1991. As early as September, at a news conference in Stockholm, the last head of the USSR's foreign policy department declared that "the process of withdrawing staffers of the Committee (meaning the KGB—editor's note) from the central apparatus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already begun." The then minister assured journalists that the Foreign Ministry, which he headed, would no longer be "cover" for foreign intelligence staffers. As is known, Pankin now heads the Russian diplomatic mission in Britain. He has parted with the ministerial portfolio, but he has hardly changed his views on intelligence.

Quite recently, in conversation with ITAR-TASS correspondents, Yu. Ryzhov, Russia's ambassador to France, essentially expressed solidarity with his London colleague by declaring that "the Russian leadership has proclaimed a shift in its relations with foreign states not only toward partnership but subsequently maybe even toward cooperation. As a consequence of this approach, it has announced the curtailment of intelligence activity under cover of various departments, including diplomatic ones." Four months before Ryzhov Yu. Deryabin, Russia's ambassador to Finland, had blamed the refusal to give intelligence officers diplomatic cover on economies. In conversation with a ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent he said: "In view of the considerable reduction in embassy personnel, intelligence will probably also vanish into the past. The Foreign Ministry, which is experiencing considerable financial difficulties, cannot maintain representatives of other services." V. Lukin, Russia's ambassador to the United States, has also expressed similar views.

What is going on? Our ambassadors in three leading Western countries—the United States, Britain, and France—declare that our foreign intelligence activity is being cut back there. How then do they and their Moscow leadership intend to formulate and implement their external functions: diplomatic relations and trade-economic, scientific-technical, and other ties? All this lies somewhere beyond the realms of common sense. For at this very same time Robert Strauss, U.S. ambassador to Russia, was trying to get the CIA to reinforce its staff in Moscow and increase the number of resident agents so that it would be easier for him, the ambassador, to fulfill the functions entrusted to him. The diplomat spoke of this, in particular, in Washington in front of a group of U.S. specialists on the Soviet Union.

Ideological blinders in understanding the essence of intelligence were eloquently demonstrated at the well known conference in Alma-Ata, whose participants repeated the costly mistake made in the past by the USSR leadership, which considered it "immoral" and "insulting" to carry out intelligence work in respect of its allies.

Finally, the recently adopted Law on Foreign Intelligence is not beyond reproach, to put it mildly. You can perceive in it the former obsession with defining the essence of intelligence and its role and place in the life of the state. The law squeezes intelligence into a rather narrow framework of ensuring security (of the individual, society, the state).

Of course, no intelligence service in the world stands aloof from problems of national security. But this is just part of the large-scale work which it carries out. For, in point of fact, intelligence does not have a sphere of activity clearly defined once and for all, like, for example, oil workers, metallurgists, etc. Depending on the tasks set it by the country's leadership, intelligence intrudes upon the spheres of politics and diplomacy, industry and trade, fundamental and applied science, upon virology and ecology, upon problems of food and the latest technologies.

So it is hardly legitimate to regard foreign intelligence just as "a constituent part of the forces for ensuring security." Most likely, foreign intelligence is a strictly secret, constituent part of external organs, ensuring the country's national interests by specific, secret operating methods.

This is apparently acknowledged in a number of the law's articles and points—for example, where it speaks of the aim of intelligence of "obtaining and processing information on actual and potential possibilities, actions, plans, and intentions of foreign states, organizations, and persons affecting the vital interests of the Russian Federation." And yet Russia's "vital interests" are not confined just to the security sphere. The basic premise of the law does not tally with its individual articles.

People say that practice makes perfect, and this law on foreign intelligence is a first attempt. At the same time it had a painful birth. Therefore there is hope that intelligence will be understood by our legislators the way it was understood by F.E. Dzerzhinskiy, who said in September 1920: "Taking into account the international situation which has taken shape and in which we find ourselves, we must raise the question of our intelligence to the proper level. Only serious, correctly organized intelligence will save us from random moves in the dark." Nowadays Russia, its foreign policy, and its internal affairs insistently demand that we "raise the question of our intelligence to the proper level," so as not to make "random moves in the dark."

Volskiy Tells Vienna Meeting Russian Reforms 'Irreversible'

LD0302155593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Vienna February 3 TASS—Reforms in Russia are irreversible and there are no grounds for speaking about their failure, Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, said.

Speaking at a meeting with Austrian business people at the Federal Chamber of Economics in Vienna on Wednesday, Volskiy warned against attempts in Russia to copy Western models of a market economy, even the most effective and advanced ones.

Volskiy believes reforms in Russia have become irreversible. The process of privatisation is gaining momentum and it is extremely important to avoid haste and poorly thought-out steps. In this situation, much will depend on whether the government will be able to take control of economic levers and use civilised methods of economic management in the country. If it succeeds, Russia may see some stabilisation by this may, Volskiy said.

Economic Issues

Government Presidium Addresses Economic Woes

Yeltsin Criticizes Ministries

OW0402134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 04 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [4 February] criticized the activities of the Ministries of the Economy and Foreign Economic Relations. Appearing at a session of the government presidium, he reprimanded the ministries for their work.

According to Yeltsin, the Economics Ministry was responsible for "the significant decline in the country's economy in 1992." Since then, he said, there has in fact been no structural reorganization of the economy, concluding that "there has been a lot of talk, but nothing has been done." He pointed out that the ministry had not set itself any clear-cut goals or ultimate aims such as could be expressed in numbers.

Boris Yeltsin also criticized the ministry for a sharp-price rise in December and January (by 25 per cent) and wage increases (by 50 per cent) in December. "Somebody," he said, "has to be held responsible for this." He also criticized financial policy in the country. The uncontrolled issuance of credits, he said, has cost us 3.5 trillion rubles. "Nobody," said Yeltsin, "Not the Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Economics, knows how these credits are distributed." He further warned that the central bank's single injection would have repercussions through 1993.

He emphasized that despite the presence of numerous unprofitable enterprises, the ministry could not even carry out a single bankruptcy proceeding to show how the calculations are done, how the determination of bankruptcy is conducted, and what follows." Nobody has even made an attempt, said Yeltsin, to carry out the relevant presidential decree.

The Russian president compared the Finance Ministry, the central bank, and the Economics Ministry to the characters in the fable about the swan, the crayfish, and the pike—"they did not discuss their problems together, and decided them separately." (The fable involves the animals being tied to a cart and being unable to pull it anywhere because they wish, respectively, to fly, crawl, and swim. —INTERFAX) As an example, he offered the absence of any clear allocation of foreign credits.

He also called attention to the necessity of rapidly sorting out the debts owed Russia by foreign countries. "We were able to find an answer to this complicated question with India, but there are about 40 more countries still to go," stressed Yeltsin.

Yeltsin suggested working out a single mechanism to control the inflow of hard currency into the country and its distribution.

He blasted commerical banks for "laundering billions." He criticized the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry for last year's "inaction," which made East European countries "turn westwards." "This is not their policy, it's Russia's fault," he said. "They face a lot more problems in their economic relations with the West since their economies are closely tied down to what used to be the Soviet Union." He said that, the day before, he had a telephone conversation with Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, during which it transpired that "nothing has been done to step up economic relations between the two countries" since August, when Yeltsin visited Sofia.

The crisis in the East European countries is far more serious than that in Russia, the president said, since they have neither the raw materials nor the powerful industrial base Russia has, nor do they any longer have deliveries from Russia.

Yeltsin also criticized the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry for failing to work out an exports program, in particular one for heavy industry. Nor has the ministry done anything to improve guarantees for foreign investors.

"After my visit to India, I started wondering whether we are carrying out the conversion of the defense industry the right way," the president said. Of course, part of it should be converted to the production of consumer goods, but this should be done "in a reasonable way, without creating any vacuum in our arms trade." "I'm afraid that, with that kind of conversion, we'll end up organizing the production of military spares for sale all over again," he said, adding that everybody needs military hardware, and there is nothing Russia should be afraid of in selling it. Countries needing military hardware have increasingly been buying it in the West, he said.

The president made these comments during the first part of the session, following the reports of Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev and Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev.

Economics Minister Nechayev said that priority must be given to financial stabilization, measures to slow down the rate of inflation and industrial recession, and financial restructuring. He also urged President Yeltsin to sign the draft decree on the establishment of the Russian Financial Corporation that would stimulate state investment in industry.

He announced that his ministry has almost drafted the restructuring program for 1993-95. By the summer time, a similar program will be drafted for the period up to the year 2000, said Nechayev.

Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Glazyev stated that in 1993, his ministry will lay the main emphasis on the exports of processed products. He admitted that in 1992 his ministry made serious mistakes and failed to establish efficient control over the exporters' hard-currency accounts.

He also said that in 1993, given the deferment already secured, Russia will have to pay its Western creditors 40 billion dollars, which accounts for 80 per cent of its annual exports. Meanwhile, Russia can only repay 2-3 billion dollars in 1993, said Glazyev. In his opinion, the talks with the Western creditors on the deferment and restructuring of the debt, above all with the Paris Club, should be intensified.

Following a brief interval in the afternoon, the cabinet's presidium began to discuss various aspects of conversion. After Boris Yeltsin left the meeting, the discussion continued under the chairmanship of Viktor Chernomyrdin.

'92 Privatization Goals Not Reached

OW0402203693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a session of the government presidium Thursday the Russian State Property Commission distributed a document entitled "The Russian State Property Commission's Main Goals for 1993."

The document, signed by First Deputy Chairman of the State Property Commission Petr Mostov, states that in 1992 the State Property Commission and territorial commissions "approved the transformations of 5613 enterprises into open joint stock companies." In the process of "small-scale privatization" 36% of retail enterprises, 34.5% of wholesale trade, 21.7% of public consumption enterprises, and 39.8% of personal service enterprises were transferred to private ownership.

The revenues from the sale of state and municipal enterprises totaled 157 [billion] Bn rubles in 1992, 118 Bn rubles of which was directed to the federal budget.

The main problems in the privatization process, the State Property Commission acknowledged, were in the restructuring of the fuel and energy industry and the defense industry.

Privatization in the fuel and energy industry was, according to the document's authors, suspended halfway through the year. The decisions that have been passed today "are far from flawless," so that they exclude up to 50% of the property of such enterprises from privatization. The document does not clarify who made such arrangements, but stresses that the decisions "require maintaining non-market methods of management."

The main obstacle in privatization of the defense industry is the lack of a military doctrine and a system of state defense orders. The State Property Commission leadership claims that a significant portion of defense industry enterprises are excluded from the list of establishments earmarked for privatization on the grounds that the assessments of branches of Russian departments "are not always justified."

Economic Ministry Issues '93 Priorities

OW0402180293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian foreign economic's ministry's priorities for 1993 include a return to state control over essential raw materials exports and the hard currency earned from these and the total clampdown on the sale of goods for dumping prices or in violation of national interests. This announcement was made at a meeting of the presidium of the Council of Ministers February 4 by Sergey Glazyev, the ministry's head.

Import and export tariffs are considered to be the most important aspects of the ministry's foreign trade system. Tariff rates, moreover, are to reduce gradually in proportion with the speed with which home industries adapt to world market prices. Import tariffs should, in turn, serve as the main means of regulating foreign trade and will "protect different sectors from competition from abroad and neutralize the advantages enjoyed by foreign firms."

In connection with the introduction of VAT [value-added tax] and excise duty for imported goods, the ministry plans to introduce tariff rate amendments in 1993 to cater for their differentiation: these will be 5% for industrial raw materials and components and 15% for finished products.

The Russian government will submit an official application for membership of GATT. However the foreign economic relations ministry estimates that the complicated multi- and bi-lateral agreement process involved here would take a minimum two years.

The ministry has said that the former USSR's foreign hard currency debts outstanding in 1993 (including interest payable immediately but not including debts to former Socialist nations or for land lease) were 75.8 bn. [billion] dollars. 33.6 bn. of these may be paid off on a medium to long term basis to official creditors and 27.4 bn. on the same terms to unofficial creditors. Debts which cannot be guaranteed by Vneshekonombank amount to 2 bn and short term debts to 12.8 bn.

Russia should pay off around 40 bn. dollars this year due to the lack of any agreement on the re-structuring of the foreign debt. However Russia stated during talks with her creditors in November and December last year that service charges for the re-structured debt in 1993 were not to exceed 2.5 bn. dollars.

The overall sum owed by foreign states to the former USSR was 144.8 bn. dollars at the end of 1992. 2 bn. dollars worth of income was received towards clearing the debts of developing countries in 1992, including over 100 mn. dollars in freely convertible currency.

Chernomyrdin, Glazyev on Trade Privileges

LD0402221493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 4 Feb—At today's session, the Presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers failed to make a decision on the progress of the implementation of target conversion programs in 1992 and on the main directions of conversion in 1993. [passage omitted]

Also today, the Presidium of the Council of Ministers discussed the issue of reviewing foreign trade privileges in 1993. According to Sergey Glazyev, Russian minister for foreign economic ties, over the last two years the president and the government have adopted more than 100 decisions in accordance with which the executive bodies of some autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts and also individual enterprises were fully or partially exempted from selling hard currency and paying export and import duties and were allocated additional export quotes to export raw material goods. The period of validity of a considerable number of these privileges expires in 1992 [sentence as received].

Sergey Glazyev spoke of the need to toughen and radically reconsider the procedure of granting foreign trade privileges aiming at reducing them drastically.

Summing up the discussion on the issue, Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that there was no system at present to monitor how these privileges were used by those to whom they had been granted: "Millions of hard currency remained in the West." Following the discussion, it was decided that all those who received foreign trade privileges should report to the government within a month.

At the end of the session, Viktor Chernomyrdin announced that a session of the Council of Ministers chaired by Boris Yeltsin would be held in the Kremlin on 11 February, where Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister, would report on the results of the social and economic development of the Russian Federation in 1992 and on the program of the government actions in 1993. Members of the Council of Ministers, the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, heads of Russian central bodies, heads of administration of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations, heads of the Moscow and St. Petersburg governments, and heads of the president's administration and the apparatus of the government of the Russian Federation will take part in the session.

Discusses Conversion Programs

OW0402175393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Following a brief interval in the afternoon, the Cabinet's presidium began to discuss various aspects of conversion. As Boris Yeltsin left the meeting, the discussion continued under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Chairman of the Committee for Defence Industries, Viktor Glukhikh, said that without a clearly-defined defence doctrine or state order, the conversion programs will be a failure. He urged to avoid mistakes, made in 1992, aNd added that as the state order for the military-industrial complex was reduced by two thirds last year, many enterprises of this branch have found themselves on the verge of closure. In view of this, Glukhikh urged to increase the defence order.

He also said that this year's conversion program is based on 17 specific programs, and that in 1992 the conversion programs which are being implemented already, will require another 150 billion roubles.

With reference to experts' estimates, he announced that in 1993, the worth of Russia's arms exports may amount to 3-3.5 billion dollars.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin categorically disagreed with the statement to the effect that Russia has no defence doctrine. He sharply criticized the report, presented by Glukhikh, saying that it only highlighted spending-related aspects of conversion, giving no information about specific programs.

Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev spoke about new foreign-trade privileges in 1993. He said that privileges were granted in four basic areas: duties, compulsory sale of hard currency, import subsidies and the government's guarantees to foreign investors.

The reductions in export and import duties amounted to a total of 2.2 billion ECU [European Currency Units] in 1992 but will be brought down to 1.3 billion ECU this year. A check revealed that the extension of privileges was complicated by the fact that no proper control was exercised over the efficiency of their utilization.

Glazyev proposed that instead of regions, privileges should be extended to enterprises, against specific programs.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin agreed with the minister, saying that enormous amounts of hard currency are streaming out of the country in the absence of adequate controL. To quote the premier, the best thing to solve the problem of privileges is to regulate it properly, not to impose any bans.

The government's presidium instructed the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Economics Ministry and the Ministry of Finance to draft corresponding proposals and present them to the Cabinet leaders in a week.

Repaying Creditors With Property Discussed

LD0402200693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] The foreign creditors of Russia might be repaid partly by offering property in Russian territory. This possibility was discussed by the Presidium of the Russian Government on Thursday.

President Yeltsin, who came out with the idea, also stressed the need to change the approach to the conversion of the defense industry. During his recent visit to India, he saw what an enormous market for arms supplies that country is.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that advantages given to companies engaged in foreign economic activities resulted in the flow of millions in foreign currency to the West. He spoke for tightening control in (?this) sphere.

It was announced that on 11 February the cabinet session will be chaired by Boris Yeltsin and discuss the country's socioeconomic progress last year and the program of action for 1993.

Government Agricultural Subsidies To Continue

MK0502095093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 9

[Andrey Markov report: "The Government Will Continue To Subsidize the Agro-Industrial Complex"]

[Text] Speaking at a press conference on 3 February, Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun presented his experts' view of the prospects for financially stabilizing the agro-industrial complex following the cabinet's decision to extend special privileges to agricultural producers (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 29 January.)

The set of financial support measures to benefit the agro-industrial complex was prepared with help of the Economics Ministry. As Viktor Khlystun said, it solves only part of the problem of providing loans for spring sowing, because at the moment the agro- industrial complex itself can contribute only 240 billion rubles [R] to the total required, which is put by the government at R600 billion. The shortfall is thus R360 billion, while preferential government loans during the first two months of 1993 stand below R237 billion. The remainder of the money, in line with the decree signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, will be found not only by recovering debts from agricultural enterprises and setting fixed rates of grants for their produce, but also by creating a mechanism for paying 3 percent of the cost of goods sold by enterprises of all forms of ownership into an agro-industrial complex fund. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts think that the latter looks very much like a special "agriculture tax." Agricultural subsidies, Viktor Khlystun thinks, will continue for a long time. This is because in the next three years, the agro-industrial complex will itself be able to find no more than 25 percent of the investments required.

The financial assistance resulting from these measures, KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts believe, could exceed the size of loans that the agro-industrial complex insisted on as being essential for the normal growth of agricultural production. The high rate of inflation, however, will inevitably reduce the value of the money, and this, Victor Khlystun said, will make it necessary to "revise the subsidy allocation terms."

[Article includes following boxed passage:

To support the agro-industrial complex, in 1993 the government plans to:

—set a fixed ratio between the purchasing and selling price of agricultural produce;

—create a mechanism for granting subsidies not only to producers, but also consumers of produce;

—set fixed rates for achieving parity between the prices of agricultural and industrial products;

—provide legal guarantees for the necessary profitability level for agro-industrial enterprises;

—take tough sanctions against monopolist suppliers of products for agriculture;

—streamline the privatization of pilot agricultural production facilities;

—secure the Russian Central Bank's agreement to special preferential loans to the agro-industrial complex at an annual interest rate of 25 percent;

—increase financing for the private farms creation program.]

IMF Chief Hits Gerashchenko, Hyperinflation

PM0402150993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 93 pp 1,3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Michel Camdessus: Russia Will Not Be Understood If It Makes Pledges and Once Again Fails To Implement Them"]

[Text] Washington—Russia will receive the $3 billion promised it by the IMF and, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus is convinced, "the sooner the better." But when? M. Camdessus is not so far willing to answer that question. In an interview with IZVESTIYA the fund's director directly linked the problem of financial aid to Russia with the way in which the economic reform program put forward by Viktor Chernomyrdin's government pans out.

The IMF managing director categorically refused to give any figures that could be used as criteria for evaluating whether Russia should or should not be given money. He stressed insistently on several occasions that the fund is not putting forward any prior conditions and that the main criteria is for the "program to be credible both for Russian citizens themselves and for the international community."

When I reminded him that the fund and himself personally, Michel Camdessus, were convinced of the credibility of Gaydar's program, in exchange for which a corresponding accord was concluded with the IMF last July, the director stressed in response: "As soon as this program was approved, the monetarist section of the program was—for reasons that I still don't understand—shelved, although the new chairman of the Central Bank of Russia reaffirmed that monetarist policy would be observed."

"I would like—this is essential for the prestige of your great country," M. Camdessus continued, "the following program to be rigorously observed. The world will not understand it if you twice make pledges and fail to implement them."

In late-February or early-March representatives of the fund will mount, according to Camdessus, "very extensive, all-embracing consultations" with the Russian leadership on what Russia is to expect in 1993 and why. "If your government confirms its determination in two spheres—monetary and financial stabilization and structural reform—then—and I am relying on this—we will be able to move on very rapidly from consultations to direct talks" on allocating Russia credit.

I would point out once again that the managing director utterly refused to give any concrete figures—for instance, the figures for inflation and the budget deficit given which the IMF would consider it sensible to send billions more dollars to Russia. I did, however, get the impression that the fund is prepared to show well-founded flexibility in its talks with the Russian administration and, in particular, is prepared not to insist on things that do not seem at all feasible. Meanwhile, Camdessus clearly indicated that the idea of cutting inflation to under 10 percent and the budget deficit to 5 percent of GNP by the end of last year—an idea in return for which the agreement with the fund was concluded last summer—was purely Gaydar's idea and did not come from the fund. "We appreciated its boldness," Camdessus remarked.

The managing director showed me—and he said that this was a first—the notes that he had made at a meeting of the fund's leadership bodies in mid-January that discussed the situation in Russia.

"All the speakers pointed to the extreme difficulty of the prevailing situation and the unprecedented problems with which the Russian leadership is having to deal. However, they also pointed out the considerable results that have been achieved: the progress made in implementing structural reforms, price liberalization, the unification [unifikatsiya] of the money markets... the authorities' determination to control as rigorously as possible growing budget spending... and the acceleration of privatization. Given the extreme economic and political difficulties, these are major achievements that are prompting the world to realize that there is some point in continuing to support reforms in your country."

But at the same time, Camdessus continued, "regret was expressed over two very major failures—the fact that some of the measures designed to swell budget revenue were not adopted, as a result of which the deficit began to grow and not fall, and, second, the fact that monetarist and financial policy was considerably slackened off."

Camdessus places the blame for the second failure—as was quite obvious during the interview—squarely on Viktor Gerashchenko. "He is an old friend of mine and I value him highly, but, in our opinion here, his monetary policy was not the most appropriate." Camdessus pointed out the urgent need for this policy to be "reviewed and brought into line with the task of curbing inflation."

Camdessus considers the number one task facing Russia and Chernomyrdin's government to be to combat hyperinflation. "That is a highly dangerous phenomenon, a catastrophe; reforms cannot develop in conditions of hyperinflation because it strikes at the most needy. Hyperinflation is highly dangerous for democracy itself. Many democracies in the world have been smashed by it. We think that hyperinflation in Russia must be stopped at any price."

The managing director described the tremendous outflow of capital from Russia as one of the most harmful consequences of hyperinflation and continued: "It doesn't make any particular sense for either the international community or the IMF to use the modest resources at our disposal to offer your country financial support if we are not confident that you have taken the appropriate steps to reinforce monetarist and financial policy in order to ensure that money stays in your country, in Russia and is not immediately transferred to bank accounts in Zurich, Paris, or London."

Camdessus is sure that in this respect the IMF can "do business" with Viktor Chernomyrdin. The premier was "appointed by President Yeltsin and following my conversation with President Yeltsin last July I am very well aware of how absolutely committed the president is to reform and stabilization." The director described as "very productive" the meeting that the Russian premier had a few days ago in Davos with one of Camdessus' deputies. He also pointed out that "having heard the prime minister's recent statements, he has come to the conclusion that the government is perfectly well aware (of the need to counter hyperinflation) and that the appropriate steps will be taken in this direction... miscalculations in monetary and financial policy will be corrected... and the premier is fully determined to continue the radical transformation of your economy."

Camdessus indicated that the fund has no intention of pressing Chernomyrdin to rush through a new program.

On the contrary, the fund would prefer the program to be subjected to comprehensive discussion in Russia itself, at various levels. "It is important for the program to have Russian citizens' trust. If you yourselves do not trust it, it will not seem credible to the rest of the world."

But Chernomyrdin has only been in his post for a few weeks, Camdessus stressed, and "no one is about to complain to him that the program is not yet ready or being put into effect. For the time being we can pass our judgment on his strategy—in the form in which he announced it."

In Camdessus' opinion, Russia "now needs at least $24 billion, or possibly more" to fund, in particular, social programs such as the provision of interim unemployment assistance, an increase in pensions for the most needy old people, and also for programs pertaining to military conversion, increasing security at nuclear power stations, and for investment in agricultural infrastructures. But the fund's director thinks that receipt of money for these programs "depends not so much on the West's generosity as on how credible your own policy is. I am sure that we will succeed in getting far more from the West than has already been received if the world sees that you and your government are fully determined to implement radical reforms and stabilization."

As for the 24 billion that—the reader will remember—we were promised by the West, the fund included, 1 April last year, Michel Camdessus read me a report that his department had prepared: In the past, that is in 1992, a total of $7.2 billion was granted in concessions on the former Soviet Union's debts; Russia received $12.6 billion in credit from the EEC, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development level, and through bilateral aid plus another $1 billion from the fund. Some $20.8 billion in all.

"In other words," I clarified, "the pledges made 1 April have all been implemented, if you don't count the $6 billion for the stabilization fund."

"They have been implemented and more," M. Camdessus agreed.

What about the $6 billion? The fund is simply afraid that, as the director said, in the current situation "the $6 billion would end up a few days later in accounts in Paris, Geneva, London, and Zurich and not in your country's vaults [zakroma]. That would mean that your personal debt, like that of any other Russian citizen, would have increased by several dollars."

One last point: Camdessus hopes to come to Russia again this year. When? He does not know yet.

Political Issues

Reformists Urge Yeltsin, Khasbulatov To Reach Consensus

OW0402185893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of influential parliamentarians from the Reform Coalition (which unites democratically-oriented deputies) have called upon President Boris Yeltsin, Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin to hold a meeting in the near future at which they work out a joint position on the problems of the April 11 referendum on the basic provisions of the new Russian Federation constitution. In the opinion of the initiative's authors, the three leaders should either agree to call off the plebiscite or reschedule it.

Observers say that such a consensus is unlikely to be reached. They point out that of the three men mentioned, only Yeltsin is insisting upon the holding of the referendum on 11 April, in full accordance with the legislation on the stabilization of the constitutional order which was passed by the VII Congress of People's Deputies. This approach was affirmed by yesterday's presidential directive establishing a unified working commission headed by First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko and charged with preparing for the holding of the referendum (Shumeyko has scheduled a Moscow press conference for 5 February).

Khasbulatov's position has been detailed in earlier releases; in general terms, his idea is to include in the referendum a question on the holding of early presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously in the spring of 1994.

Experts believe that Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin holds a similar point of view. A few days ago, Zorkin called for the rescheduling of the referendum and the declaration of a moratorium on the introduction of a new constitution. The current situation—"hyperinflation, crime, upheaval in the republics, and an economic slump"—is, he is convinced, a very unfavorable backdrop for the holding of a plebiscite. He also suggested that it would be in everybody's interest "to sacrifice one year" and hold simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections at all levels.

The presidential reaction to statements by Khasbulatov, Zorkin, and other authoritative political figures was given on Wednesday evening in a televised interview with Sergey Filatov, the new head of the presidential administration. He expressed doubt that a single position on the referendum could be worked out. He said that strict demarcation of powers and the procedure for adopting fundamental laws were the main provisions of the constitution which should be included in the referendum. He was in favor of a suggestion that the referendum include a question about the constitution being adopted by a Constitutional Assembly (a modification of the idea of a constituent assembly, which is favored by radical democratic factions—Interfax). The questions which the Supreme Council wants added to the referendum, said the head of Yeltsin's administration, lack "urgency." Filatov further asserts that a question on early elections "is not fully honest" in "such a form" (that is, with simultaneous elections—Interfax). He has not, however, voiced an unequivocally negative assessment of the idea itself.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The term of office of the Congress of People's Deputies expires in 1995, while President Yeltsin's time in office ends in the summer of 1996. Thus, using Zorkin's wording, in the event of an agreement upon Khasbulatov's recommendations, "sacrifices not one, but two years."

As noted by observers, even in the event that the "Yeltsin- Khasbulatov-Zorkin triangle" defies expectations and comes to an agreement on the rescheduling or cancellation of the referendum, such a decision would have no legal basis without a corresponding law passed by the Congress of People's Deputies. The experts thus call attention to the campaign to collect signatures from the deputies in favor of convening a special session of the Congress (according to the latest information, enough signatures have already been collected to call such a forum).

IF Note: The VII Congress's resolution on the holding of a referendum was passed as the result of a political compromise between Yeltsin and Khasbulatov which was mediated by Zorkin. Conservative deputies had already tried to contest the legislation on the grounds that it was passed by a simple majority and not a concurrent majority, as required by parliamentary procedure.

Yeltsin Decree Abolishes Anticorruption Agency

MK0402141193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p2

["Own Information" report: "Corruption Commission Closed Down by Secret Edict From the President. Abuses Will Now Be Combated by the Vice President"]

[Text] Along with Yegor Gaydar, the commission to combat violations in the financial sphere and corruption has found itself ejected from the government.

It operated for eight months under the leadership of well-known commentator on legal matters Mikhail Gurtovoy and was staffed by retired prosecutor's office investigators with the rank of colonel or general, plus a few consultants. Lacking the powers possessed by constitutional law-enforcement agencies, this commission was only able to bring to the government leadership's attention matters requiring immediate intervention. In particular, cases relating to transport operations in foreign currency which were making a loss for the country, illegal exports of petroleum products, machinations involving the gold reserves, and so forth.

Reports filed by the commission resulted in the removal from office of health and education ministry leaders and other compromised senior officials.

Of course, the liquidation of the commission hardly means an end to the struggle against corruption in the sphere of executive power. Especially since an agency with similar functions led by Aleksandr Rutskoy was recently formed. But the Gurtovoy commission manifestly trod on numerous people's toes.

If anyone can now sleep peacefully it is the leadership of our incorruptible customs service. A report filed by the defunct commission did not prevent parliament confirming Anatoliy Kruglov as chairman of the Russian Federation Customs Committee.

Kozyrev Says Parliament Should Focus on Concerted Action

LD0502071293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0340 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Yuliy Semenov; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Semenov] It used to be the case with us that politics usually left economics behind. Will it not be another case of a successful political dialogue not being backed by real implementation of those fine documents that were signed here? After all, it depends not only on the Russian leadership's goodwill, but also on many other circumstances.

[Kozyrev] This indeed is a problem that I tried to raise in my latest speech at the committee for international affairs. I should like to be given an opportunity to speak at the Supreme Soviet itself. Because, you see, a kind of metamorphosis is taking place. At the time of the cold war, politics were an obstruction, an obstacle. Then Gorbachev's detente, his new thinking, was, on the whole, a change from one ideology to another, from a negative ideology of confrontation to a romantic utopia...

[Semenov, interrupting] Lofty and a little bit cut off from reality.

[Kozyrev] Yes, a little bit cut off from reality, you are right. Well, now, for the first time probably, the political environment is normal and favorable for the development of mutually beneficial relations. But, the problem now is that, in fact, foreign policy can only create these conditions, but their implementation depends on our economic departments, our regions, our entrepreneurs—that is, on those structures that have to use these opportunities, fill them all with substance. But for this to be achieved, I believe, parliament should shift the focus from politicized debate and all sorts of accusations, as it were, childish intrigue or political disorientation, to fundamental concerted action. And here, parliament can play a major part, if only it decides to do so, to take under its control what you have mentioned. To take trade, economic agreements, military and technological cooperation under its control, to turn to serious matters. Take last year. Despite the fact that we were solving most important issues, we were also making what I call geographical discoveries—for instance, the Persian Gulf. This was a no-go area for the Soviet Union. We went there—you may remember my own visit there—and we received certain guests ourselves. Boris Nikolayevich had some meetings. Then there was my initiative to send Grachev there. And so, today, we are preparing for a display in and sale of military hardware to Abu Dhabi. And there is no comparison! Some people are trying to calculate the millions, the billions we allegedly lost in Iraq because of sanctions. But in reality, it is quite clear that whatever we would have done, Iraq would still be insolvent. But these states, they are solvent. There are no sanctions there. So the thing now is to adequately organize this exhibition, to display the hardware that is competitive, and to prove that we can service it, that there will not be any problems with spare parts this time, and that maintenance is guaranteed. These are the issues that parliament should be addressing. Instead of settling their scores with the so-called heavyweight ministers, they had better take this under their supervision and make sure that the hardware is delivered so as to be competitive.

Rutskoy Opposes Early Elections

OW0502113693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy has come out against the holding of early parliamentary and executive elections. "If we are counting on the success of the stabilization process, it would simply be senseless to change the cowntry's leadership at the given moment," said Rutskoy during an interview with an INTERFAX correspondent. "In order to get at the country's problems and try to solve them, said Rutskoy, "we need time." The vice-president believes that there is too little time left, since during all of last year, "there were no reforms." Rutskoy believes that the Civic Union bloc is capable of playing a positive role in the stabilization process, pointing out that it would be broadening itself—he reported that the Federation of Agro-Industrial Complex Workers' Unions would soon be joining the bloc. It is entirely likely, reported Rutskoy, that there will be other new members of Civic Union.

The vice-president is convinced that such processes of integration will also characterize other political parties. In his opinion, three to four powerful political blocs may be involved in the struggle for power.

National Salvation Front Vows To Challenge 'Regime'

OW0402193193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Co-Chairman of the National Salvation Front [NSF] People's Deputy Mikhail Astafyev announced that the Front's mission is still "the parliamentary and non-parliamentary fight against the regime." At a press conference held by the Russian Unity parliamentary bloc Thursday [4 February] in Moscow, he confirmed the Front's plans to establish a parliamentary republic, in which the government would be subordinate to the Supreme Soviet and the Congress. The Front's short term goal is "to defeat the organizers of the referendum. The Front mainly favors boycotting the referendum, but in some areas it will encourage voters to come and vote 'no' on all points," said Astafyev. He also claimed that the NSF has broad support in Russia's various regions.

Gennadiy Sayenko, the Front's other chairman, said that it is already clear to the opposition that neither the government nor the prime minister has an anti-crisis program. The difference between Gaydar and Chernomyrdin is in the fact that the first "unknowingly opened the sluice of Russia's raw materials, while the second is doing this consciously." Sayenko thinks that under Chernomyrdin Russia's export of raw materials is on the rise.

Moscow To Host International Conference on KGB 19-21 Feb

OW0402211293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An international conference "KGB: yesterday, today, and tomorrow" organized by congress of Russia's intelligentsia will be held on February 19-21 in Moscow. Former chairman of USSR KGB Vadim Bakatin, former Russian Security Minister Vladimir Ivanenko, Estonian Interior and Security Minister Lagle Parek, former member of the CPSU Central Committee Aleksandr Yakovlev, representatives of special forces of former Union republics and Eastern Europe are to appear on the first day of conference's work.

It is supposed that then the conference will be working in subject groups on following problems: state and public control over KGB; KGB and religion; KGB and immigration problems; KGB—Eastern Europe and former Union republics.

New Policy Group Wants Referendum Canceled

OW0402204093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2009 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Andrey Golovin, Igor Muravyov, Oleg Plotnikov, and Sergey Polozkov, leaders of the Smena - New Policy group in the Russian parliament, on Thursday said at a press conference in Moscow that the group demands the urgent convocation of a congress of people's deputies to repeal the resolution on the stabilization of Russia's constitutional system passed by the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies.

Under the resolution, a referendum is to be held in April on the main points in the new Russian constitution.

The Russian president, the group's leaders said, "has to realize that the referendum will be pointless and should propose that it be canceled." In Golovin's opinion, "it is senseless to call a referendum on matters which are reflected in the present constitution."

The group's leaders also protested against holding a new parliamentary and presidential elections in spring 1994.

Umar Temirov, leader of another parliamentary group, Sovereignty and Equality, which includes members of parliament representing various republics of the Russian Federation, said the majority of the group's members are also against the referendum. He feared some of the republics might take advantage of the referendum to vote for secession from the Russian Federation. He was also in favor of holding an urgent congress of people's deputies which should "declare a moratorium on referenda and elections until 1995."

Space & Military Issues

'Mir' Space Crew Carries Out Space Mirror Experiment

LD0402135593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—A unique "Znamya" experiment has been completed in outer space. A giant sunlight reflector has been unfurled on the orbit. Such structures will be used in the future to light up areas of various accidents, natural calamities and forbidding regions.

The cargo vehicle "Progress M-15" undocked from the "Mir" orbital complex at 3 hours 45 minutes Moscow time to start the experiment. A circular plastic mirror, twenty metres in diameter, was unfurled with its help in outer space. Cosmonauts Gennadiy Manakov and Aleksandr Polishchuk, working jointly with the Flight Control Centre and other ground services, have successfully coped with their task. The "new light" experiment was carried out at dawn today as part of the "Solar Regatta" experiment. Inhabitants of several European cities could see the light beam coming from the "Mir" station. The masterminds and participants of the experiment are unable to say how it all looked, of course. This can be done only to earth dwellers, who happened to watch the phenomenon early today morning.

This was only the first part of the programme, the results of which will eventually open up broad prospects for lighting up the earth's surface. In experts opinion, the "Solar Regatta" project will eventually help save millions of tonnes of petroleum.

Russia Rejects Cooperation With U.S. in Mars Project

MK0502123093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 5

[Oleg Kotov article: "Flight to Mars Will Be Made Without U.S. Participation. No Extra Payload To Be Taken on Board"]

[Text] Yesterday representatives of the Space Research Institute [SRI] announced the cessation of talks with NASA on sending a descent vehicle to Mars as part of the Mars-94 project (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 4 December 1992). Observers believe the plan of cooperation with the Americans, which was to bring the Russian side $2.5 million, was abandoned because Russian designers were unwilling to alter the design of the Mars-94 spacecraft on the eve of the flight and jeopardize the whole mission, which is crucial for ensuring the stability of state financing for Russian space companies.

The Mars-94 project involves launching a spacecraft weighing about 6 tonnes, including an orbital module and two independently operating stations to work on the surface. NASA suggested mounting one more independent U.S. station with scientific equipment aboard the Russian spacecraft. The cost of sending a station weighing around 40 kilograms to Mars was estimated at $2.5 million. In the summer of 1992, owing to budgetary shortfalls, the SRI and the Lavochkin scientific production association, which are producing the Mars-94 craft, decided to begin talks with the Americans about taking on an extra payload.

As state financing stabilized, however, the technical problems of converting the Russian station to meet the U.S. payload specifications came to the fore, and the hard currency contract was abandoned. Altering the Mars-94 design shortly before liftoff could have diminished the chances of success for the whole mission, while a second successive failure since the abortive flights to Mars under the Phobos program could have called into question Russia's entire Mars research program—and with it, state financial support for the Russian space institutes and enterprises involved.

In addition, the signing of a large hard-currency contract before the space research budget had been approved would only have reduced the overall amount of state funds allocated for the Mars-94 program. A sum equivalent to the value of the contract would simply have been taken off the program's budget.

Russia chose Mars as the main target in its study of the solar system for the next 10 to 15 years, as provided for by the Mars scientific and technological program. Under this program, two flights to Mars are to be made—in 1994 and 1996. The flight to Mars in 1996 includes sending a surface soil test probe. In 1992, some 1 billion rubles was allocated for this program from the budget.

Developer Prepared To Sell SA-15 Tor Missile Systems

PM0402170393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1615 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Video report by Aleksandr Tikhomirov from "Vagon 03" program]

[Text] [Unidentified speaker over video of ZRK Tor (U.S./NATO designation SA-15) self-propelled tracked SAM system emerging from the woods] This is a SAM system which is designed to provide cover for troops during mobile combat operations.

[Tikhomirov] It can hit low-altitude targets, among other things, can it not?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, essentially it has no parallel in the world. It can hit targets down to 15 meters.

[Tikhomirov] At an altitude of...

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, at an altitude of 15 meters.

[Tikhomirov] Does this mean that it can hit all those cruise missiles with which they tried to frighten us?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, yes, it can hit cruise missiles, guided bombs, and pilotless small reconnaissance craft—it can hit all these targets.

[Tikhomirov] And you are prepared to sell it to different countries?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, we are prepared to sell this system; we were ready to sell it even in the current year [presumably 1992].

[Tikhomirov] And where are the missiles stored?

[Unidentified speaker] The missiles are in a launch tube in the very middle of the aerial column. In a set of eight.

[Tikhomirov] Two missiles?

[Unidentified speaker] No, eight missiles, in two containers containing four missiles each.

[Tikhomirov] How many targets can be fired at simultaneously?

[Unidentified speaker] It is a two-bore [dvukhkanalnaya] system. It can fire at two targets simultaneously, two targets moving as a pair.

[Tikhomirov] And what is the approximate price?

[Unidentified speaker] The sale price?

[Tikhomirov] Yes.

[Unidentified speaker after a long silence] You will have to ask the Oboroneksport [Defense Ministry export department].

[Tikhomirov] Is it a secret?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, it is simply that not a single contract has been concluded yet. It is too early to speak about this. [video shows SA-15 system from various angles]

[M.D. Maley, Russian president's adviser on conversion issues] The Tor system is well known. Let me quote you some figures. I will try not to be too precise so as not to damage the enterprise's business interests. The Ministry of Defense was buying this system for, let's say, 4 million rubles, while in the world market it could fetch 15 million dollars.

Supreme Soviet

'Roundtable' Talks Open To Discuss 'Economic Crisis'

LD0502095893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0930 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The first roundtable meeting set up by decision of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Russian Federation and the Russian Government has opened in Moscow's President Hotel. Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, opened the session. On the agenda are speeches by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The participants in the roundtable discussion will then exchange opinions on the reports. In particular they will discuss the nature of the questions put forward for discussion, the mechanism for drafting recommendations, and the implementation of the program designed to end the economic crisis.

Khasbulatov Addresses Opening

OW0502113293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has called for the attainment of a consensus in society. Opening the first session of the "Round Table" in Moscow on Friday, he emphasized that only through a real consensus among all political and social forces and the safeguarding of the democratic standards which the country has attained can it be lifted out of the global crisis which, in his opinion, was aggravated by the mistakes of the previous government.

The present Round Table, said Khasbulatov, is the first practical step toward attaining these two goals.

The Round Table, which includes the participation of Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, representatives from the Civic Union, Russian Unity, and other political blocs, as well as from trade unions, banks, the agro- industrial complex, the army, the ministry of internal affairs, and the country's regions, was established by legislation from the Supreme Council Presidium and the government on 11 January 1993.

Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the Round Table would work under the aegis of all the authorities and would consult with the Constitutional Court. The Round Table, the speaker pointed out, should not be substituted for the parliament, the government, or the established power structures. All of these structures, however, should take part in the discussions involved. Khasbulatov suggested that the Round Table be an ongoing working organ for the attainment of consensus. "Our device," he continued, "should be 'Consensus and Democracy.' Otherwise, we will not be able to revive the country." "We can trick each other, one group may outwit another, but all the same, we will be deceiving the entire country and our own people," emphasized Khasbulatov. "There has been much slyness in the history of Russia, yes, and in the history of the Soviet Union, but it always ended badly." In Khasbulatov's opinion, "the level of democracy at which we now find ourselves is not the result of the activity of specific leaders, but of concurrence between the federal authorities and the actions of the Russian parliament, which was dissatisfied with the performance of the federal authorities, and therefore revived democratic legislation, attempting to effect them in real life." The parliament speaker said that particular faith in the Round Table was expressed at the VII Congress of People's Deputies.

All of the current leaders of our country should understand the real danger in the present situation, stressed Khasbulatov. "There are people who are desperate," said the speaker, "who 'are exasperating' the entire country. This is why the activities of ultra-radicals of all stripes is dangerous." He also noted that the achievement of consensus is a lengthy process, and it may be that the Round Table will be at work for a year or more.

Khasbulatov Calls For Accord, Democracy

LD0502114993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—"In civilized society civil accord is inevitably reached by means of talks," said Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov on Friday opening a round-table meeting of political parties and public movements being held in Moscow on the initiative of the Presidium of the Russian Parliament and the Government.

The meeting has been arranged to work out recommendations for programmes of anti-crisis measures and the progress of reforms. There are plans to make the meeting a permanent working body consolidating constructive forces for the stabilisation of the economy, implementation of reforms and social transformations in society.

Taking part in the first meeting are Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, members of the Presidium of the Russian Parliament, representatives of the Russian president, members of the government, representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, trade unions, political blocs: the Civic Union, Democratic Choice, the Russian Unity, banks, entrepreneurial structures, leaders of enterprises, the Army, the Russian Interior Ministry and other organisations, including youth, women's and veterans' organisations.

Khasbulatov suggested that "accord and democracy" be the motto of the round-table meeting adding that without this the country is dying. Touching upon the conflict between the executive and the legislative power Khasbulatov noted that under present conditions "one can defeat his own country and his people rather than his political adversaries." According to Khasbulatov, in order to reach civil accord in society, it is necessary to translate the ideas of accord into reality. Khasbulatov said that the round-table meeting, which should be held under the auspices of the three branches of power, is to become a practical instrument for implementing this task.

Khasbulatov suggested that the round-table meeting be chaired by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, First Vice Prime Minister Boris Fedorov and Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament Yuriy Voronin.

Khasbulatov cautioned participants in the round-table meeting against turning it into a meeting of alternating speakers. He noted that the forum could become a professional working body to give advice to the parliament and the president when adopting important decisions.

Chernomyrdin Opposes 'Witch-Hunt'

LD0502104493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS— Russian prime minister is against searching for "enemies" who can be blamed for the current difficult economic situation and stands for national accord which can help Russia get out of the crisis.

It is tempting to engage in a witch-hunt in such a hard situation, to look for who is to blame for it and conduct fruitless discussions. "We have experienced this already", Chernomyrdin told a round-table discussion of various political forces, legislators and trade unionists in Moscow on Friday [5 February].

He was referring to the years of Stalinist repressions when all the drawbacks were attributed to "enemies of the people" and millions of innocent Soviets were repressed.

It is important to concentrate on the search for concerete ways out of the crisis. "I am a staunch supporter of national accord which may lead the country out of the crisis", he said.

Chernomyrdin believes that the current round-table discussion is an "historic event" which can promote the accord. It is worth to test all basic proposals at such discussions and later adopt decisions on them in parliament and government, he said.

Russian reform is going on in very unfavourable conditions and the time for gradual and smooth changes has been lost. "The results of the first year of intensive economic reforms leave no grounds for optimism", he stressed, adding that prices, inflation have exceeded all reasonable levels, industrial slump continues and finances are in a plight.

Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy also believes that the round-table discussion is a way to the national accord which allows to look for compromises. The event should be supported and stimulated, he said during the discussion.

However, Rutskoy said that the idea is not new. "We have long been trying to consolidate democratic forces by this way", he explained, adding that it is necessary now to create a body which will unite political parties and movements, legislative and executive branches of authority in order to embark on the path of national accord.

The vice-president outlined two major tasks facing the country—social and economic stabilisation and political stability. They cannot be fulfilled without the national accord and the policy of compromises, he added.

Chernomyrdin Doubts 'Fast' Stabilization

LD0502131193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is sceptical about a fast economic stabilisation in Russia and said he was not going to make promises that the situation will normalise in three months or by the end of the year.

Today it is impossible to stop the industrial slump, Chernomyrdin told a round-table discussion on Friday [5 February] attended by various politicians, legislators and trade unionists.

"Currently a mechanism is necessary which will help not to stabilise economy, not to stop industrial slump, but only to curtail it as it is impossible to stop the process today", he added.

Chernomyrdin reiterated that the government is set to ensure financial stabilisation in the country. "As an administrator I will not fall behind any theoretician in understanding the importance of financial issues and of the stabilisation of the rouble in particular", Chernomyrdin said in answer to the question whether his government is also devoted to tough financial policy of the former cabinet of Yegor Gaydar.

But Chernomyrdin added that financial stabilisation should be linked with the growth of production. Otherwise it might so happen that there will be finances and nothing to buy with them, he said.

The prime minister rejected accusations that he is against private entrepreneurs. "I stand for the development of small and medium-scale businesses but on the professional, not an amateur level", he explained.

Chernomyrdin denied rumours that the government is preparing a list of enterprises which would go bankrupt after the law on bankruptcy comes into force on March 1.

Enterprises should themselves reorient to the production of new goods and in this case the government will help them. Those who would not reorient will get under the heavy press of the law on bankruptcy. The government cannot help everyone, according to the prime minister who warned directors against parasitic smugness and expectations of easy credits.

Shumeyko Views Referendum

LD0502103793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0954 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS—"A referendum on the fundamental principles of the Russian Constitution is needed, because it is long since necessary to put an end to the confrontation of different branches of government," Russian first Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko told a roundtable here today. He believes it is abnormal when "fifty per cent of the forces are spent on this confrontation", not on the promotion of cooperation between the executive and legislative arms of power in order to implement the reforms programme.

As earlier reported, President Yeltsin has recently appointed Vladimir Shumeyko to head the government commission for holding the referendum. Hence, his latest pronouncements and assessments may be regarded as the stand of the Russian executive authorities on the constitutional referendum, fixed for April 11.

The first vice-premier disagreed with recent proposals to put off the referendum. "A decision on it was adopted by the congress," he said. "It is the duty of the executive authorities to ensure its implementation."

Shumeyko criticised the plans of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet to include in the referendum the question of holding pre-term elections of people's deputies and the Russian president in the spring of 1994. This, he believes, contradicts the agreement reached by different branches of government last December. It is common knowledge that a decision was reached then to hold a referendum only on the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

In Shumeyko's opinion, only three questions should be put to the referendum instead of the twelve suggested by the parliament. "It is firstly necessary to decide what type of a republic the Constitution is to establish—a presidential or a parliamentary republic," he said. "Contrary to the view of speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, the distinction between these two types can be determined with sufficient exactitude," Shumeyko stated.

In addition to all this, it is necessary to decide who will adopt the new Russian Charter. shumeiko believes that one month would be enough, if necessary, to convene a constitutional assembly or a constituent conference. And, finally, it is necessary to fix the deadlines for the constitution's adoption.

Shumeyko criticised the present system of representative power. In his opinion, it has begun to resemble to some extent the power of the CPSU. "Russia has almost four million deputies working on different councils. This is enough for any party," he said. "They have their own central committee—the Supreme Soviet, their own politburo—the Supreme Soviet's Presidium, and even their own secretary-general. The extent of the representative power's interference in the work of the executive authorities is also reminiscent of the (Communist) Party rule," Shumeyko noted.

The first vice-premier stressed that the referendum should furnish answers on which the fate of the reforms depends. "No further work is possible without it," he added.

Rutskoy Supports Talks

LD0502114193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0958 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Tamara Zamyatina, Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Feb—The idea of a "roundtable" needs to be supported and stimulated as it is a search for compromises and a way to national accord, Russia's Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy said today at a "roundtable" meeting of political parties. In his words, this idea is not a new one. "We have for a long time tried to consolidate democratic forces in this way," the vice president noted. Today a situation has taken shape which urgently puts the question of the need to create a collegial body of political movements, parties, executive and legislative powers, in order to proceed along the road to forming a policy of national accord.

Aleksandr Rutskoy named the attainment of socioeconomic stabilization and political stability in society as two of the most important tasks. This, he suggests, is not possible without a policy of national accord and a search for compromises, which are fully attainable.

Khasbulatov Meets With Volgograd Officials

Rejects Blame for Current 'Chaos'

PM0302115793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Valeriy Kornev report: "R. Khasbulatov's Statements in Volgograd"]

[Text] Volgograd—During a meeting with members of the Inner Soviet, standing commission chairmen, city and rayon soviet chairmen, heads of administration, and leaders of enterprises and organizations in Volgograd and the oblast Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is in Volgograd in connection with the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Battle of Stalingrad, spoke on a number of topical problems.

During the meeting the following question was put: Despite the compromise achieved at the Seventh Congress, both the Congress and deputies are being besmirched. Will any measures be taken?

"Your observations are correct," Ruslan Khasbulatov replied. "Representative power is being persecuted from top to bottom. We are currently witnessing hardline attempts to get rid of it and to overthrow democracy to the sound of provocative slogans purportedly about a struggle for democracy. Clearly the essence of the matter is that, while realizing how complex the economic transformations are, everyone is trying to pin the blame on us—an allegedly reactionary parliament. We will not take this lying down. We in the Presidium have decided to advocate the immediate holding of presidential and congressional elections. If the elections are held, then one result will have been achieved—we will have some politicians with real heart.

The reply given by the speaker of the Russian parliament to a question on the referendum was a kind of continuation of this subject.

"I have answered this question," Ruslan Khasbulatov said, "in two articles. If you have not read them, get them published in the local press. I was categorically opposed to the referendum. The referendum was imposed on the Congress. It was imposed when one branch of power was ready to collapse into the abyss, but

I was against it. Now the other branch of power is being constantly provocative. That is why we made the decision about presidential and congressional elections. Let us get ready for the new elections."

The question of how long prices would go on rising was raised at the meeting. "Last year," Ruslan Khasbulatov replied, "so many absurd decisions were made that everything is continuing through inertia. It will take a long time to sort out this chaos."

Ruslan Khasbulatov was asked what ways he and the Supreme Soviet foresaw for boosting agriculture following its reorganization.

"The Supreme Soviet," the speaker of parliament replied, "never advocated the elimination of collective and state farms. We proclaimed the equality of all forms of ownership. But later executive decisions were made which forced us to intervene. If we had not intervened, famine would have been inevitable. We have nothing to do with the current collapse."

Criticizes Gaydar Government

LD0202202793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Volgograd February 2 TASS—"1992 will go down into history as a year of collapse of economic reforms", according to Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov who blasted the government of former Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar for "colossal mistakes in reform organisation", for "adventurist and irresponsible attitude to the complicated economy of the country".

Khasbulatov, who addressed on Tuesday a meeting devoted to the 50th anniversary of the victory under Stalingrad in the Second World War, said the victory in the battle was a result of love to the motherland, freedom and independence.

After the war the people restored the national economy, but when the time of transformations came "reformers-terminators, and not reformers-creators headed the movement", the speaker told the meeting in Volgograd, former Stalingrad. 1992 was a year of "missed opportunities and impotence of authority", he added.

Khasbulatov doubts whether the collapse of the Soviet Union was historically predetermined. No matter how radical reformers want to prove it, people strive to preserve and strengthen the integration of former Soviet republics, he said. The preservation of human relations can serve as the basis for future unity, the speaker stressed.

Khasbulatov believes there are two main conditions for Russia to develop its economy and become a flourishing state—firstly, the accord of all political forces in carrying out reforms and, secondly, the preservation and strengthening of democracy. "Only relying on democracy, on legislative authority it is possible to avoid autoritarianism, the regime of personal power", he said.

The meeting was also addressed by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy who read out a message of greetings from Boris Yeltsin. "Today, 50 years (after the victory) the exploit of defenders of the city is even more brighter, it is an example of the staunch spirit and grandeur of the people", it said.

Reviews 'Year of Terrible Failure'

PM0502094593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Year of Terrible Failure...'"]

[Text] That was how Speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov described the state of the Russian economy the other day when speaking in Volgograd.

Among other things he said: The events of recent years have turned out to be dramatic. It is difficult to say how objective the collapse of this mighty state was, this state which had been formed by historical processes and which had stood the test of time and war—both of the "hot" and the "cold" variety. However much the extreme radicals might try to say this collapse was unavoidable and historically conditioned by the Union's imperial nature, people are taking this disaster agonizingly to heart and seeking to do everything they can to preserve and strengthen integration within the framework of the countries which formerly made up the Soviet Union.

The country's economy has suffered unrecoverable losses: Last year, 1992, will go down in political and economic history as the year of the proclaimed reforms' terrible failure, a year of lost opportunities, and spineless authority. Was there really an objective reason for meat and milk production suddenly falling last year by 30-40 percent in our undernourished country, and for industrial decline exceeding 20 percent? Where is the logic, what objective reasons are there for this? Who can make such assertions? Only frivolous people!

People have begun to consume (up to 40 percent) less of basic foodstuffs! The standard of living of 70 percent of the population has gotten considerably worse. It is not possible to attribute all these catastrophic processes to objective reasons.

The problem is something else: Colossal miscalculations were made in the reforms' organization as a result of cavalier and reckless attitude toward the country's extremely intricate economic complex... It is necessary to make a serious analysis of all these mistakes and put them right as quickly as possible, relying on people themselves and on the regions.

We should make all strata of society allies of the reforms: our workers and intelligentsia, our soldiers and youth, our economic leaders and peasants, pensioners and entrepreneurs, all political forces and trade unions. It is necessary to clearly map out the fundamentals of the kind of society and the kind of aims to which we are aspiring when carrying out the reforms...

Khasbulatov Says Yeltsin Bears Referendum Responsibility

LD0502095493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow February 5 TASS— "The idea of the referendum belongs to our ultra-radicals and the parliament was forced to agree with the proposal of the Russian president to hold it. He must bear the main responsibility for all the possible consequences of the referendum," Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov told the Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall during their meeting here today.

The speaker stressed that he believed there was the danger that several subjects of the federation would refuse to take part in the April referendum, which is bound to "weaken the influence of the federal authorities".

Khasbulatov noted that the main thing Russia needed today was national concord, a common approach to the reforms, and not struggle among different branches of the government.

PRAVDA Profiles 'Tiger' Khasbulatov

PM0502131593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Samovarov article: "He Has the Ways of the Tiger: A Portrait of Ruslan Khasbulatov"]

[Text] Even a year ago it was not difficult to see that the "Democratic Russia" bloc was far from monolithic and sooner or later would split apart. Now almost all the leaders of the patriotic opposition are former Democrats. Politicians in Russia are no longer divided into communists, democrats, and patriots. Despite their many different shades they have divided into two camps. Some want to turn Russia into a tame province of the West, whatever the cost. Others want to see Russia strong and independent. Whereas for the former the key figure is B. Yeltsin, for the latter it is R. Khasbulatov.

Everyone is furiously criticizing Ruslan Khasbulatov. The Democratic Russia people see him as a traitor and a renegade, the patriots curse him for the "deal" with B. Yeltsin and V. Zorkin at the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies. Both the former and the latter are very contradictory in their criticism. The Democratic mass media write that R. Khasbulatov is "jealous of the president's" favorites and wants to be the number two after him. But if it is all that simple, why is Democratic Russia trying every trick in the book to discredit the speaker? The patriots too have repeatedly stated that the speaker is a loyal Yeltsin man, then suddenly they accuse him of doing a deal with the president. But why should someone who is "serving" B. Yeltsin in that way do a deal? That is not a deal but an extension of loyal service.

Like anyone else, a journalist can be wrong, but for me Khasbulatov is the only politician who has really been opposing (in the legitimate sense) B. Yeltsin over the past six months.

Who still remembers the young doctor of economic sciences whose reputation was based solely on the fact that he among the "nationals" was elected first as deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet and then, for his devotion to B. Yeltsin, became chairman of the Supreme Soviet? The evolution from "faithful Ruslan" to the number one politician happened right before our eyes but we missed it. Ruslan Khasbulatov was one of the few academics who filled Russia's political firmament and who really had the ability to make a political career. The character of a fighter, the ability to move from one aim to the next, an excellent intuitive sense, the ability to select helpers and neutralize opponents—Ruslan Imranovich has all these qualities. But he also had extraordinary luck. What is a speaker in any other parliament in the world? The anchorman in a parliamentary session and nothing more. But in our country the chairman of the Supreme Soviet is a far more significant figure.

In politics, no matter what qualities someone may possess, if he is the perpetual number two we never know what he is capable of. Fate has given Khasbulatov a unique opportunity to realize his talents. After all, there was no one above him. And in a short time he managed to turn the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet into a real center of power, even though there is no justification for claiming that deputies are very fond of their chairman.

Furthermore, the speaker has won the indirect [zaochnoye] battle with B. Yeltsin. But the president is in a far better position than the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Yeltsin can issue orders, appoint and remove top officials, and so forth. Ruslan Imranovich does not have that opportunity. To control the situation in the Supreme Soviet he has to take into account a great many factors. And when he first expressed a very negative view of the Ye. Gaydar government this could really have been a sign of a struggle for influence over B. Yeltsin, but Khasbulatov's subsequent course of pointed opposition to Yeltsin's course was due to changes in the mood of the people and indeed of the majority in the parliament.

Yet as early as the spring it had become obvious that Ye. Gaydar was completely indifferent to the social aspect of the reforms in Russia. Furthermore, his government was doing absolutely nothing and had done nothing for the development of Russian national enterprise. It had embarked on the destruction of national industry and was interested exclusively in the hard currency-earning sectors—oil and gas. Even though Ye. Gaydar gave the directors' lobby an opportunity to make a great deal and even get rich if they wanted to, his course did not suit the industrialists and especially not the representatives of agriculture. The slaughter of Russians in the Dniester region, the protracted indifference to that on the part of B. Yeltsin and Ye. Gaydar, and the bizarre changes of course in Russian foreign policy were all factors which step by step turned even B. Yeltsin's former supporters against his policy. Ruslan Imranovich took that into account. He sharply distanced himself from the group surrounding the president. But it was not until the Seventh Congress that the full depth of the split between him and B. Yeltsin became clear. Khasbulatov's speech at the Congress was the final proof that, unlike our previous leaders the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is capable of thinking for himself without the help of assistants and informers. He does not need the likes of Gaydar to grasp the gist of what is happening. That is his advantage. But the Seventh Congress also showed the vulnerability of Khasbulatov's positions.

"Go and ask the president one question," Ruslan Imranovich said to the deputies who left for talks with Yeltsin after the latter had left the Congress: "Ask him what else he wants to do with Russia?" A deadly phrase. But after it came...compromise. Whatever the opposition may claim, the speaker did not snatch victory away from them. Because there was no such victory to snatch. Yes, the industrialists and the power structures were dissatisfied with B. Yeltsin's policy. But not so dissatisfied as to gamble on the radical opposition. If R. Khasbulatov had demanded the impeachment of the president, whose help could he have counted on? No one's. After all, "Russian Unity" does not even have a simple majority, let alone two-thirds of the deputies. At the Seventh Congress both Khasbulatov and Yeltsin were doomed to a tie. Khasbulatov stopped where he had to stop.

It cannot be ruled out that in the next few years national interests will begin to prevail in Russian policy and Orthodoxy will prevail in Russian people's spiritual lives. Time is on the side of the patriots, not the Westernists. But it is an interesting fact that in postcommunist Russia it has often been those politicians who are not Russian at all or are only half-Russian who have spoken in defense of national interests.

True Russian nationalism has not existed in a pure form since Peter I's times. It was always connected either with great power-monarchist sentiment or, under the Bolsheviks, with communist ideology. The Russian man's national aspect is only just being molded. And it is no coincidence that certain Russified "nationals" have become the most consistent Russian patriots.

A patriotically minded Russian politician was unable to win the presidential elections. The majority of Russians wanted to see people like Yeltsin in the top posts. For present-day Russia the fact that Yeltsin is opposed not by some Ivanov or Petrov but by the Chechen Khasbulatov is a normal phenomenon. And our Democrats, who know the psychology of the Russian man very well, are wasting their time trying to predict Khasbulatov's next moves. Congenital fear is playing its part here. The shadow of the "father of all the peoples" still looms large above the vast expanses of the CIS. (True, recently we have begun to understand that a Chechen is no less different from a Georgian than a Russian is from a German). Anyone at all will recall that Trotskiy, Zinovyev, and Kamenev had a low opinion of Stalin and called him a "provincial actor on the metropolitan stage." People have recently tried to ridicule Khasbulatov in the same vein too, but soon had to try a different tack. You hardly ever heard the name of the Russian Supreme Soviet chairman mentioned on radio or television without the additional information that he lives in a very, very big apartment.

Ruslan Khasbulatov is such a dangerous opponent that during the Seventh Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies the reminiscences of a "bad girl" appeared [in the MOSCOW GUARDIAN]: In other words, they were using Khasbulatov to try out a method of compromising a politician that had never been used in our country before. Indeed, they are pulling out all the stops here—the luxury apartment, the Chechen cutthroats, and the "bad girl"—just to make Khasbulatov less dangerous. But the whole point is that when he suffers a setback Ruslan Imranovich becomes even more dangerous. Outwardly he seems slow to act but, like the tiger, he is capable of a lightning-fast leap. Boris Nikolayevich also has the courage of a political fighter, but when he sets about something everyone knows about it long before he actually starts doing it.

So what is in store for us in the immediate future? We know from our experience that anything is possible. It is also unclear what Ruslan Imranovich is going to do. But one thing is clear. There are no major personalities or major politicians left in the Democratic Russia team. Even with their total dominance of the press this gap has not been plugged. Ponomarev, Zaslavskiy, Yakunin, Yushenkov, Starovoytova, and Popov—are these really major figures? Meanwhile in the center and on the opposite flank Rutskoy, Volskiy, Travkin, Baburin, Tuleyev, and Sterligov are lining up. Whereas the centrists did not have the determination to push B. Yeltsin aside from the real levers of power at the last Congress and are not going to do so in the near future either, the people are coming to the point where they will accept such national Russian leaders as Baburin and Sterligov.

Yes, R. Khasbulatov was forced to compromise during the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. It was there, as we will recall, that the decision on the nationwide referendum was taken. But he is already casting doubt on the effectiveness of the referendum. Furthermore, R. Khasbulatov believes that for the purpose of ensuring constitutional legality in the preparation and holding of the referendum it is possible to "begin the work of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies shortly before the referendum." The first stage of the Congress should take place before the referendum, the second after it.

Such a course of events would make the political intrigue extremely gripping and would nullify very many efforts by the supporters of a strong presidency.

R. Khasbulatov is planning his moves and, as always, he is ready to act. In Volgograd on 2 February Ruslan Imranovich stated that 1992 was the year of "missed opportunities and weak will on the part of the authorities." He spoke against a regime of personal power in Russia.

You may love R. Khasbulatov or loathe him but, whatever else, you cannot ignore him. At the moment he is winning and winning well.

Signatures Gathered for Extraordinary Congress

LD0402155193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1212 GMT on 4 February broadcasts a program entitled the 'Authors' Channel.' The announcer goes over live to parliamentary correspondent Vladimir Kornikov for news of the work of parliamentary commissions and committees.

Kornikov says: "The Supreme Soviet building is by no means empty. Not only certain committees and commissions are continuing their work, political activity is also continuing within the walls of the Supreme Soviet. Today, two factions held a meeting with the media: the Change-New Policy [Smena-Novaya Politika] and the Sovereignty and Equality [Suverenitet I Ravenstvo] factions. They announced, not concealing their triumph, that 321 deputies' signatures have been collected under a petition for the urgent convening of an extraordinary congress of people's deputies in order to overturn the decisions of the previous, seventh, congress on holding a referendum in Russia on 11 April.

"For effect, the 321st signature was signed by Temirov, chairman of the Sovereignty and Equality faction. So, the Congress is planned for the end of February and beginning of March. The participants in the meeting have no doubt that it will be held. The congress is intended, in their view, to revoke the decision on the referendum and, furthermore, to introduce a moratorium for two years, until the end of 1995, or even more, on holding any referenda or elections on the territory of the Russian Federation.

"It is not ruled out that there will be discussion of the problem of the Chernomyrdin government which, with an obvious touch of malice, was called a government no different from the Gaydar government.

"Finally, it is not ruled out that the problem of the impeachment, that is the removal from power, of the president will be examined in some form. It is not ruled out that a form of appeal to the Constitutional Court will be adopted, demanding that a number of presidential decrees be revoked, and then, under the pretext of his having violated the Constitution, he will be removed.

"So, the main thing is that at the end of February and beginning of March we may have an extraordinary congress of people's deputies with this agenda which, in my view, will by no means promote stability of the constitutional system in Russia, which was the aim of the decision on a referendum on 11 April. What is most interesting is that the participants of today's meeting with journalists said that the initiative to convene this Congress should—let me stress this word—should come from President Yeltsin who, should—again should with an exclamation mark—recognize how detrimental it would be to hold a referendum, and agree with the proposals of legislative power, which they allege is already inclined toward revoking the referendum, and judicial power which, in the person of Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court, is also voicing serious doubts about the need for the referendum to be held."

Kornikov then interviews Mikhail Alekseyevich Mityukov, chairman of the Committee on Legislation, in general about the current areas of work of the Supreme Soviet committees and commissions and the general legislative and political problems in the country.

New State Measures Will Aim at 'Popular Privatization'

PM0402154793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Igor Karpenko article: "The Check and the Voucher Auction Are the Main Instruments of Privatization in 1993"]

[Text] The preliminary parliamentary discussion of the draft State Program for the privatization of state and municipal enterprises for 1993 and the draft Law "On Privatization Checks" began in the White House 2 February.

D. Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, S. Krasavchenko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of the Economic Reform and Property, and P. Filippov, chairman of the subcommittee for privatization, acquainted the meeting with the main principles and distinguishing features of the new documents and the results of privatization over the past year and answered deputies' questions for almost two hours.

IZVESTIYA has recently reported on the specific results of privatization in the past year, and the main results can be summarized as follows: Almost one enterprise in five has now been transferred into private ownership; the income from auctions and trading amounted to 157 billion rubles [R]; a legislative and legal base and a mechanism for implementing privatization in Russia have been created in a very short time. So far, however, one and one-half times fewer enterprises have been privatized than was envisaged by the 1992 program. The analysis of the factors slowing down the process that was presented to the participants in the discussion is interesting primarily because certain important changes in the 1993 State Program are connected with it.

In the new State Program the rights of the regions are perceptibly broadened and the privatization process is considerably decentralized and has already assumed the nature of permission rather than declaration.

It is certainly no coincidence that the Law "On Privatization Checks" has been presented to the Supreme Soviet for discussion at the same time as the State Program: The key aim of the law is the broad implementation of "popular privatization" and the sale of shares for vouchers at check auctions. Several new sections of the program are devoted to the mechanism for free privatization on the basis of the use of checks, the organization of check auctions, the development of an assets market, a procedure for the use of foreign investments at voucher auctions, and so forth.

During the first parliamentary reading it became obvious that it is not only the population who are in need of explanations. There is a one-week recess in the parliamentary session now, and among the participants in the meeting there were clearly fewer deputies than experts, representatives of enterprises and commercial structures, and journalists, whom the Supreme Soviet Committee for the Economic Reform and Property (quite wisely!) decided to invite to the preliminary discussion of the drafts. Furthermore, in the Hall of Mirrors there were representatives of all the committees connected with the economy, industry, finances, property, and so forth who have a vital interest in the discussion.

Unfortunately, often it was their questions and speeches, for example the demand for the indexation of checks in connection with the rise in prices and inflation, confusion over the valuation of property according to its balance-sheet value in the privatization process, and so forth, which seemed to take the audience back to the state of affairs six months ago.

Nevertheless, there were also quite a few questions whose answers really should be developed in greater detail or should be included as additions to the State Program, for example the coordination of the text of some sections of the program with the Federal Treaty, and so forth.

The preliminary discussion will go on, and I think will benefit parliamentary deputies and the government and help them reconcile their positions.

Regional Affairs

Rutskoy Arrives in Nizhnyy Novgorod 3 Feb

LD0302184993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Evald Kissariyskiy]

[Text] Nizhnyy Novgorod February 3 TASS—Russian Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy has arrived in Nizhnyy Novgorod from Volgograd tonight.

At the airport Rutskoy told ITAR-TASS, commenting on the aim of his visit, that this is a usual working visit to resolve local problems taking into account that Russia's interests are closely connected with interests of its regions.

On Thursday [4 February], Rutskoy is expected to visit Burevestnik research institute which is developing the latest models of agricultural, medical and ecological equipment in the framework of the conversion programme.

Comments on Defense Industry

LD0402142193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Evald Kesariisky and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Nizhnyy Novgorod February 4 TASS—It is inadmissible to use inefficiently the available defence industry potential as the technical and technological potential of the country's industry is concentrated here, said Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

He attended a scientific conference at the Nizhnyy Novgorod scientific research institute Burevestnik. Its subject is problems of utilising the potentialities of converted enterprises in the interests of the agro-industrial sector.

This is a promising direction, Rutskoy believes. He supported the idea of setting up, on the basis of Burevestnik, technopolis that would produce farm machinery for the whole of Russia and is prepared to find the necessary funds for this.

On economic reforms in the country, Rutskoy stated that "there were no reforms in the past year, there were purposeful actions to ruin the economy and the agro-industrial sector." In his view, one should not expect speedy success in economic transformations. It will take six to eight years for reforms to produce the first results, he believes.

At present, the government has practically one programme—the programme of reforms in agriculture and related industries, which was drafted by experts in his secretariat and passed a thorough test in all interested agencies.

Rutskoy held a meeting with representatives of the district and city administrations of the Nizhnyy Novgorod region and presented awards to residents of Nizhnyy Novgorod.

1992 Had Economic Ruin Instead of Reforms

OW0402144893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice-President Alexandr Rutskoy believes that the Russian economy may recover only in about 8 years, on the condition that the economic projects are adequately financed. He told the personnel of the Burevestnik Scientific and Industrial Amalgamation in Nizhnyy Novgorod on Thursday [4 February], that the reforms should be implemented gradually, not in haste.

He believes that in 1992 no refomrs were implemented in Russia. There were only deliberate moves to ruin the Russian economy and destroy the agro-industrial complex, he said. The program for reforming and developing the agro-industrial complex for the period from 1993 to 1995 will help check this process, said Rutskoy. This program was approved by experts and by the parliament's committee for agriculture, and is the only real program of reforms for the moment, he added.

On the same day Rutskoy told the administrators of the Nizhnyy Novgorod region that the Civic Union was the only political force that has managed to rid itself of the extreme left-wing and right-wing radicalism. The Civic Union alone can ensure national accord and stabilize the situation, he said.

Speaking about the problems facing the military-industrial complex, Rutskoy said that "All the shame should be brshed away and military equipment should be sold to the states which want to buy it". He added that this question was discussed by the Russian Federation's Security Council not long ago and that a long-term plan for exporting Russian military equipment is being drafted. "I think, by the middle of February this problem will be solved, " said Rutskoy.

He also described the current dollar intervention as a serious problem. In his opinion, the current dollar to rouble exchange rate is unrealistic and a real exchange rate should be determined in a centralized way and without delay. "Otherwise, we shall utterly destroy the national currency and reduce the worth of Russia to 10,000 dollars".

Says Relations With Yeltsin Normal

LD0402155693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Evald Kessarijski and Vasily Titov]

[Text] Nizhnyy Novgorod January [as received] 4 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy believes that defence enterprises should intensively market their weapons abroad and invest the proceeds into their production in order to save the technical and technological potential of the country.

"One should not be ashamed of that, it is necessary to sell the products", he told leaders of Nizhnyy Novgorod region on Thursday [4 February], a major arms producer in Russia.

There are enterprises which produce unique military equipment, Rutskoy said, adding that the Russian Security Council has already discussed the question and will, most evidently, adopt all the necessary decisions in the near future.

Speaking on agricultural programmes, Rutskoy said that his staff have already worked out a programme of reforms in the sphere. The issue of creating land banks was discussed with Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and a corresponding law should appear in the near future, the vice-president promised.

He also welcomed the coming referendum on the basics of the constitution proposed by the president and said that his relations with Boris Yeltsin are "absolutely normal and have a working character".

Relations between the president and his deputy became rather tense during the latest Congress of Russian People's Deputies when Rutskoy did not support Yeltsin's appeal to the people to hold a referendum and decide on who would govern the country - the president or the parliament.

Rutskoy told the meeting in Nizhnyy Novgorod that he managed to convince the president that his speech at the congress was necessary at the moment.

Proposes Tech Center for Defense

LD0402180193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By Aleksandr Tsiryulnikov in Nizhnyy Novgorod; from the "Novosti" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Criticism was heard today from Aleksandr Rutskoy. To tell the truth, he was sounding a somewhat different note. In the course of his trip along the Volga he had expressed the opinion that over the last year there have been no reforms at all. But, according to him, there has been a deliberate disintegration of the economy.

[Tsiryulnikov] Earlier today the Russian vice president visited the central scientific and research institute Burevestnik. For many years this enterprise worked for military departments, but it never ignored the problems of the national economy. That's why, putting it mildly, it has entered the conversion business and has priority workings in the spheres of ecology, agriculture, and the profound processing and preservation of agricultural produce. A total of 90 technologies are ready to be put into serial production.

[Rutskoy, in progress] And artillery workers, nuclear industry workers, and aviation workers have elaborated a closed-circuit for processing agricultural produce—virtually waste-free production. They have come up with the production of purely biological products. Strictly speaking, the idea is—it is my idea—to set up a technological center [teknopolis] on the basis of the "Burevestnik" scientific and production association. It will be an organization that would work according to a standard scheme: 30 percent will go to defense and 70 percent to the national economy, as everything elaborated for defense can be used in the national economy.

[Tsiryulnikov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy had a meeting with people's deputies and public representatives from Nizhniy Novgorod and oblast. According to the vice president, the main task needing to be tackled by our entire society is to ensure Russia's unity and national and civic accord. Aleksandr Vladimirovich presented awards to the residents of Nizhniy Novgorod who were given honorary titles. [Video shows Rutskoy visiting the institute, Rutskoy speaking to those gathered at the institute, Rutskoy meeting city's and oblast's representatives and presenting awards.]

Gives News Conference

LD0402195393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpts] A news conference was held on Thursday [4 February], the last day of Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's stay in Nizhnyy Novgorod. According to ITAR-TASS, Rutskoy reacted negatively to the suggestion that early elections should be held for the president and people's deputies. He supported the holding of a referendum on the constitution. On other themes, the vice president opined that regions should be given the right to sell military hardware directly. Apart from that, he said that it is time for the ministries concerned to earmark funding for conversion programs.

Our correspondent Igor Stanovov will tell us in more detail about Aleksandr Rutskoy's visit.

[Stanovov] [passage omitted] Aleksandr Rutskoy continued on the reform theme at a meeting with agricultural workers of Nizhnyy Novgorod oblast. Incidentally, that was not all he talked about. Answering questions, the vice president emphasized his polysemantic attitude to privatization and his negative attitude to voucherization which, in his opinion, is not the same as privatization.

In formulating his attitude to the referendum and to possible early elections, he said that it would be better to do something constructive, although of course a new constitution is needed. In conclusion, he emphasized that he, the vice president of Russia, is an optimist and believes in the success of the reforms. On this point the meeting ended.

Criticizes Ruble Exchange Rate

LD0402224993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 4 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Vice President Rutskoy has spoken on the subject of methods of distributing hard currency even more sharply during his meetings with local authorities in Nizhnyy Novgorod. He expressed the opinion that the present exchange rate of the ruble against the dollar was unrealistic and that it was necessary to urgently determine the real rate through a centralized policy. Otherwise, said Rutskoy, we will wreck our national currency beyond repair and it will be possible to buy the whole of Russia for $10,000.

Also, on the eve of the round table in Moscow [of political parties on 5 February], Rutskoy devoted special attention to the Civil Union movement. The vice president said that at the present moment this union is in fact the only political force that has managed to avoid both extreme right and extreme left radicalism. The Civil Union can guide society toward nationwide concord, believes Aleksandr Rutskoy, and that will make it possible to stabilize the situation.

Rutskoy also declared that he was against early parliamentary and presidential elections. At the same time, he expressed his belief that a referendum on the Constitution is necessary.

Ingushetia, Ossetia Agree on Disarming Groups

LD0402214393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2108 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Kislovodsk (Stavropol Region) February 4 TASS—An agreement on the disarmament of illegal formations on the territories of Ingushetia and North Ossetia has been signed as the second round of talks on the settlement of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict ended in Kislovodsk on Thursday.

Although the talks were held behind closed doors, ITAR-TASS learned from reliable sources that the agreement on the disarmament of illegal formations signed by members of both delegations does not have a declaratory character but contains a list of concrete measures for the implementation of the outlined tasks.

During the second round of talks the delegations acknowledged it was necessary to hold a meeting between the heads of the two republics involved in the conflict.

It was announced that experts had been instructed to prepare proposals, acceptable to both sides, on the problem of refugees' return to be discussed at the next round of talks.

Upon completion of the second round of talks representatives from Daghestan and Stavropol, who had acted as mediators, unanimously expressed confidence that the agreement on the disarmament of illegal formations and yesterday's agreement on measures for the search for missing people and unconditional return of hostages confirm that peace and accord between Ingushetia and North Ossetia can be reached.

Chechen Official Holds News Conference on Talks

LD0402195993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1907 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow February 4 TASS—Chechen vice-prime minister, Yaragi Mamodayev, gave a news conference at the publishing house of newspaper PRAVDA today. The news conference was devoted to the results of the Russian-Chechen meeting and the next round of talks between the two republics.

According to Mamodayev, the main result of the Moscow meeting was a mutual desire to continue talks. "Today we have reached mutual understanding on such issues as partially providing the republic with rouble coupons and lifting air blockade," Mamodayev said.

Asked by ITAR-TASS on the mutual delegation of powers between Russia and the Chechen republic, Mamodayev confirmed again that "issues of defining price politics, banking operations, energy system, defence, transport, scientific research and relationship between law-enforcement bodies should be resolved together."

It was announced at the news conference that the next round of Russian-Chechen talks would be held in Groznyy on February 15.

Luzhkov Concerned Over Former Soviet Population

OW0402210993 Moscow INTERFAX in ENglish 2009 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "As a Russian citizen and Mayor of the Russian capital, I cannot be reconciled with human rights violations of the so-called 'Russian-speaking population' in the former Soviet republics," Yuriy Luzhkov said, in commenting on this subject during his visit to the Interfax' Moscow headquarters Thursday morning [4 February].

Moscow Mayor believes that "moral genocide with respect to the non-indigenous population, which is now especially dramatic in Latvia and Estonia," may generate a new wave of refugees from these and some other republics of the former Soviet Union. "At present, Russia is not capable of accepting all these people and providing enough housing for all of them," he said.

Yuriy Luzhkov said the situation of the so-called "Russian- speaking population" in the former Soviet republics will be among the subjects he is going to address at his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on February 10.

The Mayor was highly critical of the acts of vandalism, in particular with respect to Russian cultural monuments in the Baltics, saying that such facts produce fully justified concern not only of the Russian people but of all those who acknowledge the worth of international human values.

During his discussions with Interfax journalists, Mayor Luzhkov indicated that at this point of time independent media ought to attach much more attention to human rights issues, revealing the gist of moral norms and finding a true measure of their democratic value.

"In our building a law-based state," he emphasized, "we ought to show equally civilized approach of all the interested parties, all the power structures."

Moscow Aviation Plant Switches to Civilian Output

PM0402152193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2047 GMT 1 Feb 93

[From the "Business in Russia" program]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent over video of "Kommunar" plant entrance and production facilities] One of the oldest aviation enterprises in Russia—Moscow's "Kommunar" Plant—can serve as an example of successful conversion.

Until recently the plant was producing highly sophisticated military output. [Video shows interior of aircraft cockpit.]

Embarking on conversion, the enterprise has succeeded, in a relatively short time, in switching to the production of civilian output. The share of this output increased to 74 percent last year compared with 22 percent in 1991.

The plant has just started up series production of car, domestic, and heavy-duty vacuum cleaners, universal woodworking machines, and commutator motors of various capacities. Production of domestic and industrial asynchronous motors and other much needed articles has started.

At the same time the plant produces various types of electrical equipment and subassemblies which are widely used in the machine building and aircraft building industries.

It is also significant that the plant's tool-making production facilities have been promptly equipped with the latest foreign equipment for the production dies, punches, and cutting tools. This enables the plant swiftly to switch to the production of new types of output, and, in the opinion of the plant's management, will ultimately enable the plant to compete successfully on the domestic and foreign markets.

The startup of production of the new-generation "Chayka-Lyuks" vacuum cleaner can serve as an example. It is suitable for dry as well as damp and wet cleaning in combination with synthetic detergents. There is nothing to compare with it in our country.

The plant is now preparing for privatization and share flotation. The collective has decided to buy up the controlling block of shares. This is an indication of the optimism with which it looks to the future.

Fuel Shortage Leaves Kamchatka Without Power

PM0402144593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By Vasiliy Plotskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] The inhabitants of Aleutskiy Rayon, the most remote rayon of Kamchatka Oblast, have electricity available for only two hours per day. The reason for this is the lack of fuel in Kamchatka.

[Plotskiy over video of power station in snowy landscape] Back on the eve of 1993 the Kamchatka Oblast Administration worked out a precise timetable for regular power cuts to reduce the load on the grid by 25 percent in the southern and most highly populated part of the peninsula. The reason is always the same—lack of fuel. The muddle with transport and the absence of credits have made it impossible to import even minimum reserves of fuel to Kamchatka since the fall. Having announced their decision to the population, the power workers have, however, not yet dared to take this extreme step. All the same, the situation in Petropavlovsk, for example, is such that in a number of housing areas the temperature in apartments does not rise above 5-8 degrees Celsius. What is more, 41 apartment houses in the city have no heating at all, and the heating systems are frozen up. The main power supply units in Petropavlovsk—two large power stations—are on the brink of closure.

The emergency fuel situation is also affecting fishermen. Dozens of supertrawlers and fish factory ships are laid up, waiting for fuel.

The situation has further sharply deteriorated also because our neighbors—the Maritime Kray Administration—declaring an emergency situation in the Kray, have "requisitioned"—to put it mildly—22,000 tonnes of heating oil purchased by the Kamchatka power industry. [passage omitted]

Sakhalin Governor Fedorov Interviewed

PM0502104593 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

[DEUTSCHE WELLE-attributed interview with Valentin Fedorov, governor of Sakhalin, by Georgiy Bragin in Munich; date of interview not given: "Sakhalin Governor Is Firm"]

[Text] [Bragin] Valentin Petrovich, you recently expressed your not very flattering opinion of Boris Yeltsin in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

[Fedorov] I would not say I am against the president, but I do not like the policy of the government subordinate to the president. It is erroneous and will lead Russia to catastrophe.

[Bragin] Often the president's decisions and laws are blocked by the local authorities.

[Fedorov] The local authorities could show with facts that it is thanks to them that the situation in the regions is still more or less satisfactory. If they had fulfilled everything prescribed by Moscow the situation would be far worse. Much depends very much on the local leadership, and it should display prudence in implementing Moscow's decisions.

[Bragin] Valentin Petrovich, you also hold a special position with regard to the islands whose return Japan is demanding. What are your arguments?

[Fedorov] Why must we hand over to someone part of the territory of the Russian state or, to be absolutely frank, of the Russian people? The Japanese side and the pro-Japanese circles, even officials and even ministers in Moscow who defend this position, have no grounds for this. The foreign minister or deputy minister should pursue a policy of defense of national interests. I cannot see this from our minister Kozyrev or his deputy Kunadze. It seems to me they are considering other countries' interests more than Russia's.

We should learn the lesson of Alaska. We gave away, we sold Alaska, but Russia did not become richer—that is the first lesson. The second lesson is that we did not improve our relations with the country to which we gave Alaska almost for free. That is why if, hypothetically, we were to give away the Kuril Islands, then there would be no guarantee of improved relations with Japan. If in Japan now there is a movement for the return of the Northern territories I can assure you that a movement for the return of the Kuril Islands will emerge in Russia.

So there will never be calm in relations between our two countries. The Kuril Islands are ours and will remain ours.

Shakhray, Abdulatipov on Caucasus Problems

MK0502100793 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No. 12, 2 Feb 93 p2

[Yelena Afanasyeva report on remarks to unidentified journalists by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, and Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, at 29 January press conference; place not given: "Working Together"]

[Text] If there are any contradictions they are exclusively dialectical. So said Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, and Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy, at last Friday's [29 January] joint press conference, which was a unique instance of the kind of cooperation between the legislature and the executive that is rare in Russia's present-day political life.

The press conference was devoted to the situation in the Caucasus. Both Shakhray and Abdulatipov are natives of that region, and for them the quest for a way out of the difficult situation that has arisen in their native land is not only a professional duty, but a moral obligation.

The press conference was a kind of summing up of the interim results of the joint activity of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities and State Committee for Nationalities Policy, the results of talks with the Chechen Republic delegation in Groznyy and Moscow, and the results of meetings between the heads of the legislatures and executives of the North Caucasus republics, Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and Rostov Oblast, at which the Coordination Council was set up.

Sergey Shakhray commented on the decision to set up this council:

"This is a purely consultative body. It includes the leaders of the North Caucasus republics and the adjacent territories. The Council has been set up today for troubleshooting purposes, but is also intended for more tranquil work. You could see it as a mechanism for settling conflicts. No conflict in the North Caucasus can be settled without involving the neighbors. And the Council has already started to tackle the most pressing conflict—between North Ossetia and Ingushetia."

And this is R. Abdulatipov's opinion:

"Yes, the leaders of the krays, oblasts, and republics were initially afraid that yet another dictatorial body would be set up over them. But they very soon became convinced that this is a consultative body, that they are the ones that need it. The trouble is that a regional level of leadership in Russia, including in the context of nationalities issues, is still nonexistent, which severely undermines the federal structure."

[Correspondent] What relationship does the new body have to the activity of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples?

[Shakhray] The Confederation of Caucasian People, which is what the Confederation of Mountain Peoples is now called, is a social organization, whereas the Coordination Council is the product of an official organ of power. We consider that dialogue with the Confederation is necessary, and the Confederation is now ready for such dialogue. The change of name stresses that it is also open to the Russian-speaking population of the North Caucasus region.

[Correspondent] What legislative acts—laws and edicts—need to be urgently adopted to stabilize ethnic relations?

[Shakhray] We have endless scope for legislative activity in the field of ethnic relations. It is easier to say what acts there are rather than what acts are lacking.

[Abdulatipov] There are not many laws at present. There is an urgent need for a law "On National Cultural Policy." We have also started defining the priorities for nationalities policy and the priority tasks to get out of the crisis in the field of interethnic relations. [Abdulatipov ends]

Special attention at the news conference was devoted to the talks between the Russian Federation and Chechen Republic delegations.

[Abdulatipov] The talks with the Chechen Republic began in Groznyy, where we decided that three basic areas—the exclusive powers of the Chechen Republic, the exclusive powers of the Russian Federation, and shared powers—should be sorted out at expert level by 31 January.

The Russian side stuck to the Groznyy document. The Chechen side couldn't cope with it. When I met with Dudayev for the first time we sketched out 11 fundamental powers in the exclusive domain of the Russian Federation. And it became clear that we could make a treaty without particular difficulty. But it must be remembered that we are not talking about an agreement between Australia and Russia. Like it or not, we are each part of the other. There can be no secession [vykhod] from Russia. "National self-determination" is fine, but without violating the state's integrity.

[Shakhray] We proposed a new procedure for negotiations: To not hold discussions in terms of trendy words like "federation" or "sovereignty" but to proceed on the basis of real life and decide what Chechnya can do alone and what needs to be shared with Russia. Professionals in the transport and gas industries and representatives of other sectors are currently finalizing memorandums of cooperation. And these documents constitute a treaty.

The model of federalism in Russia is flexible and enables any people to have contractual relations without infringing its interests. [Shakhray ends]

Journalists were not able to verify the rumors of an alleged Dudayev telegram to Moscow during the second round of negotiations in which Dudayev said that the Chechen Republic delegation had no powers.

[Shakhray] In Groznyy we were negotiating with a parliamentary delegation. The people who came to Moscow also included representatives of the executive authorities. We decided that we were already into joint negotiations. But the Chechen foreign minister sent the Foreign Ministry and the Supreme Soviet Presidium a cable indirectly disavowing all negotiations with the parliamentary delegation on the pretext that the negotiations should allegedly be conducted only by the presidential side. The Russian side did not regard such objections as fundamental at this stage of the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Was the question of the Chechen Republic participating in a referendum discussed?

[Shakhray] A referendum was not discussed, thank heaven.

[Abdulatipov] In a federal state it is very dangerous to hold a referendum on questions of national-state structure. [Abdulatipov ends]

Commenting on journalists' remarks about this new "duo" consisting of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities and the chairman of the State Committee on Nationalities Policy, Ramazan Abdulatipov said: "There have been different stages in my relationship with Shakhray over the last two years. But with his accession to the chairmanship of the State Committee on Nationalities Policy I feel that the Soviet of Nationalities has gained a reliable support in the executive power structure."

S. Shakhray added:

"My appointment was agreed with the Soviet of Nationalities. We are now working together, and if there are contradictions, they are exclusively dialectical."

International Affairs

Officers Demand Complete Control Over Missiles

WS0402133593 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 20 Jan 93 p 3

[Declaration of the Kiev Branch of the Ukrainian Officers' Union: "Strategic Nuclear Forces in Ukraine and Russia"]

[Text] Over the past half a year, reactionary forces have made attempts to impose agreements with Russia on Ukraine that, if signed, would deprive Ukraine of its sovereignty and make it a colonial slave of Russia.

The August draft agreement provided for the delegation of political, economic, and military powers to Russia, but the current one also embraces Ukrainian nuclear forces.

According to this draft, Ukraine would provide for their maintenance and financing, leaving the operational command and combat use to Russia.

Given the Russian territorial claims to Ukraine and frequent attempts by Russia to violate international treaties, Ukraine cannot afford to sign an agreement that would make it a Russian hostage and give it the possibility to blackmail the "restive Ukraine," which poses a deadly threat not only for Ukraine but also for the whole of mankind.

In theory, the Ukrainian president is able to block the rocket launching mechanisms, but in practice the execution of such a command would take much time and hefty financial losses, which is inadmissible since Ukraine will become a nonnuclear state in the future.

In its efforts to prevent the conclusion of every agreement undermining Ukrainian sovereignty, the Kiev Branch of the Ukrainian Officers' Union proposes that the following objectives be achieved:

1. The separation of missiles stationed in Ukraine from the Moscow-controlled central command and launching systems as well as the dismantlement of the launching, aiming, and targeting equipment.

2. The conclusion with Russia of an agreement on monitoring [avtorskyy nahlad] and destroying rockets made in Russia.

3. The elimination of combat surveillance and preparations for destroying rockets made in Ukraine.

UN Finding Fails To Show Violations of Sanctions

OW0402203193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an inspection of ships located in Port Reni (Odessa district) a U.N. mission investigating alleged violations of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia did not find that Ukraine had violated the sanctions.

Inspectors asked that each shipment sent along the Danube from Ukrainian ports be checked by a U.N. representative. However, a representative of the port's administration said it was impossible for "one employee to control the up to 50 ships a day which pass through the Reni Port."

The call for inspections of ships and barges in Port Reni by international controls came after reports were issued that Ukraine had violated the U.N. ban on shipping oil products to Yugoslavia.

On February 1, Ukraine's U.N. representative declared that Kiev had not participated in the supply of oil products to Yugoslavia.

Romania Sign Accord on UN FRY Sanctions

LD0402173893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1719 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Schwartzman]

[Text] Odessa February 4 TASS—Ukraine and Romania held consultations on the Yugoslav crisis in Odessa on Thursday which ended by signing a memorandum to this effect.

The memorandum declares that Ukraine and Romania are prepared to cooperate for the unconditional implementation of the U.N. sanctions against the Yugoslav Republic (Serbia and Montenegro).

The sides expressed their adherence to the strict observation of UN sanctions. In this connection Ukraine declared its intention to open posts of international experts in the ports of Reni and Ismail on the Danube River.

The Ukrainian-Romanian memorandum stressed the need for closer contacts between transport, border guard and customs services of the two neigbouring countries. The two sides expressed their concern about considerable direct and indirect damage caused to countries whose foreign cargoes are shipped by the Danube River as a result of UN sanctions. The sides declared they intend to appeal to the UN General Assembly to find optimal ways of resolving problems which emerge as a result of taking sanctions by the world community against the Yugoslav Republic.

Kuchma: Priority Task To End 'Economic War' With Russia

OW0402203093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking about Ukrainian-Russian relations, Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma declared that "Kiev has firmly chosen the way to restore normal relations with Russia." On Thursday, on his arrival to a military airdrome Belbek, in the south of the Crimea, he pointed out that "if our peoples quarrel, it will be the greatest crime of our politicians. That is why I see my task in ending economic war between Ukraine and Russia."

The same day he met with chairman of Crimean Supreme Soviet Nikolay Bagrov, commander of Black Sea Fleet Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of Ukrainian Navy Rear Admiral Boris Kozhyn.

Kuchma also visited the Sevastopol ship-repairing yard named after S. Ordzhonikidze, met with city administration and deputies.

In the near two days Kuchma is to visit Kerch and Simferopol.

Deputy Defense Minister on Visit to U.S., Signing START

WS0402133693 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 20 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Vasyl Ovsiyenko: "Does Ukraine Need Nuclear Arms?"]

[Text] A Ukrainian Government delegation headed by Borys Tarasyuk, deputy minister of foreign affairs and head of the National Committee for Disarmament, visited the United States in January 1993. Colonel General Ivan Byzhan, first deputy minister of defense, was one of the members of the delegation. On 10 January the officials held a briefing. In the beginning, B. Tarasyuk refuted Russian mass media reports on the emergency nature of the visit and their forecasts that it was doomed to failure. It was a planned return visit and its main goal was to analyze the positive and negative aspects of American-Ukrainian relations in 1992 and to elaborate outlines for the future. President Bush received the delegation in the White House, and was handed a personal letter from the Ukrainian president. There were talks about the adoption of the START treaty, the Lisbon Protocol, and the Nuclear Arms Nonproliferation Treaty by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The delegation also had a meeting with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell and Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz, and talked to White House, Senate, and Congress officials. The American side treated with understanding the reasons that prevented the Supreme Soviet adoption of the START treaty. To adopt these documents Ukraine needs a detailed research and study of all the information.

The consultations resembled a "brain attack", as B. Tarasyuk put it; they dealt with the strategic directions of Ukrainian-American relations. Tarasyuk also pointed out that the Americans had finally gotten rid of the stereotype of regarding Ukraine from Moscow's point of view.

National security guarantees for Ukraine were one of the basic issues of the negotiations. Ukraine's demands for such guarantees were rejected in spring 1992, but now the elaboration of the text of the declaration by the heads of the world nuclear powers is under way. Its signatories will refrain from using arms, nuclear or conventional, against Ukraine. If the Ukrainian legislature ratifies the START treaty, the issue of nuclear weapons destruction and its financing will arise. Today Ukraine is in a tough economic situation, and due to this, disarmament is not our economic priority. We will carry it out only when we have the means to do so. "We are counting on foreign aid, but we are not putting forward any financial claims," said the deputy minister.

Three of the aforementioned states (the deputy minister did not name them) are holding consultations on the form of security guarantees for Ukraine. One of the reporters asked if they were the United States, Russia, and Great Britain. B. Tarasyuk's witty reply was: "Let us not ban other countries access to these consultations."

The Lisbon protocol calls Ukraine a non nuclear state, due to the fact that it does not control the nuclear arms deployed on its territory. These arms are under the operational control of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Command. Ukraine is not self-sufficient in the production of nuclear arms and does not have a possibility to test these weapons. Ukraine's future nuclear or non nuclear status will depend on the Supreme Soviet's decision. The Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements envision that the Russian president can only use nuclear weapons with the consent of the president of another CIS country on whose territory these weapons are deployed. The Ukrainian president should have a real power to block the use of nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine. Rumors about Ukraine elaborating its own nuclear arms control codes were called untrue at the news conference. Ukraine is not violating the agreements.

The deputy minister said that the letter by the Ukrainian president carried a proposal to create a nuclear disarmament fund and suggested that Ukraine could join the Russian-American START treaty. The conditions hampering this process are the lack of national security guarantees, financial hardships, and the procedure for nuclear weapons destruction. Russia does not react to our proposals to negotiate these issues. Ukraine is the owner of the nuclear warheads physical components, that can be used for nuclear electric power production. Some of these warheads have already been moved to Russia.

Plyushch Meets DPRK Charge d'Affaires; Ties Discussed

LD0402213093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, today received (Kim Gwang-num), temporary charge d'affaires of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea in Ukraine, at the request of the latter.

[Unidentified correspondent] (Kim Gwang-num) passed to the parliament and people of Ukraine the best wishes of the leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He provided information on some aspects of the internal and foreign policy of his state, in particular with respect to the unification of the two Korean states.

Ivan Plyushch thanked the official for the greetings and told him about the current stage in the establishment of the Ukrainian state, which is open to mutually beneficial international cooperation, in particular with Korea.

Italian Ambassador Promises Credits To Boost Economy

AU0402164893 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting With an Ambassador"]

[Text] At the request by Vittorio Surdo, ambassador of the Italian Republic in Ukraine, he was received by Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

The ambassador assured Kuchma that the Italian Government fully supports the course of economic reforms in Ukraine. He stated that the question of Italy granting a credit of 250 billion lira to Ukraine will be ultimately resolved next week. He expressed hope that the credits will promote the development of Ukraine's economy, in particular, faster reconstruction of the Lysychansk Refinery where Italian firms already work.

Deal Signed With Germany on Building Tanker Fleet

PM0502101393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Leonid Kapelyushnyy report: "Ukraine Builds Tanker Fleet"]

[Text] Odessa—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has signed a document on the creation of a tanker fleet. On his instructions Pavel Kudyukin, chief of the Black Sea Steamship Company, held talks with foreign partners and brought good news to Odessa—the fleet will be built. Ukraine's partner is Germany's Bremer Vulkan and a prominent German bank.

Roughly 20 million tonnes of crude will be delivered to Ukraine by sea—during the initial stages of the oil program. At least two dozen tankers will be required. Provision has been made for the construction of both supertankers with a displacement of 100,000-150,000 tonnes and small tankers capable of shipping oil down Ukraine's rivers.

A large oil terminal—something that Ukraine lacks—needs to be built in order to put the program into effect. It will presumably be located in Odessa, at the port of Yuzhnyy.

Decree Approves Composition of Country's UNESCO Commission

AU0402172693 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "We in UNESCO"]

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers, with its decree No. 31 ["On the New Composition of Ukraine's Commission for UNESCO Affairs"] issued on 21 January 1993, approved the composition of the Commission. Mykola Petrovych Makarevych, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, has been appointed as its chairman.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been authorized to introduce the necessary partial changes to the the composition of the Commission in coordination with corresponding ministries, departments, creative associations, and public organizations.

National Affairs

Government's Economic Action Plan Outlined

LD0302174693 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1334 GMT 3 Feb 93

[by UKRINFORM correspondents Aleksandr Litvinov and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 3 February—In Ukraine the principle of management over the state sector of the economy through ministries which will not interfere in the operational activity of enterprises is being revived. This is one of the points of the plan of action of the government of the country on implementing and developing the basic points of national economic policy for 1993, which was supported today by the seventh sitting of the Ukrainian Parliament. Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk presented the plan.

The plan also envisages the establishment of a profit tax at the rate of 30 percent and a reduction of value added tax from 28 to 20 percent. If enterprises manufacture products which were not previously produced in the country, then they are exempted from income tax. Those among them who are fulfilling inter-state agreements and cooperative deliveries to CIS countries will not pay export and import tax either.

The priorities of the government's structural policy include: a reduction in Ukraine's energy dependence; guaranteeing consumer goods for the population, especially foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals; increasing output of machinery for sale on the world market; further development of the coal industry; and stimulating the export potential and protection of the internal market.

The plan of action of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is based on the fact that the stabilization of production and its growth are impossible without a revival in investment activity, and state influence on the processes of structural reorganization. In connection with this, profit which is directed at investment will not be taxed. It is envisaged creating a state fund and a special investment bank, which will undertake the crediting of investment projects at low interest rates.

Most of the state investment is directed at the priority development of the social sphere in the villages, and the creation of capacity for the production of machinery for agriculture and the processing industries.

Despite numerous critical remarks, the majority of deputies expressed support for the government and the plan of action for taking Ukraine's economy out of crisis.

Parliament Sets Date for Constitutional Court Elections

OW0402211093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament on Thursday established the procedure for elections of members of the republic's Constitutional Court. Voting will be by secret ballot. The voting is to take place February 16.

According to legislation, Ukraine's Constitutional Court consists of a chairman with two deputies and 8 judges elected by parliamentary deputies by direct majority vote.

Parliament in 1992 elected only the court's chairman (Leonid Yuzkov).

Parliament has already begun to discuss the principles of the draft law on the elections of Ukrainian people's deputies. It remains to be decided whether voting will take place by a majority, proportional or combined system.

The procedure for the voting itself must also be decided.

Kuchma Arrives in Sevastopol, Meets Workers, City Leaders

LD0502093893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1933 GMT 4 Feb 93

["Leonid Kuchma's Stay in Sevastopol"—UKRINFORM HEADLINE]

[Text] "We used to come to the Crimea to have a rest and take a tour, but today we have arrived to do hard and difficult work," Prime Minister of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma said as his aircraft landed at Belbek airport. He was met here by Mykola Bahrov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Crimea; Anatoliy Franchuk, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of the Crimea; Ivan Yermakov, representative of the president of Ukraine in Sevastopol; Viktor Semenov, chairman of the city of Sevastopol Council of People's Deputies; Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and Rear Admiral Borys Kozhyn, commander of the Ukrainian Navy.

A certain pattern can be traced in the prime minister's trips around Ukraine. He visits those regions where there is either a threat of economic instability or a threat of a social or political conflict. The Crimea is not a detached island, but a bridge between Ukraine and Russia and between Ukraine and the Black Sea countries.

The aim of Leonid Kuchma's visit is to meet members of staff of machine-building and fishery enterprises, and agricultural workers; and to visit Sevastopol, Yevpatoriya, Kerch, and Simferopol. Since it is envisaged that a number of issues will be settled locally, the prime minister is accompanied by a large group of members of staff of ministries and departments.

The prime minister left the airport for the S. Ordzhonikidze marine factory in Sevastopol. He visited workshops and talked with the workers and managers of this enterprise, which is one of the largest in the Crimea.

Later in the day Leonid Kuchma met with members of staff of fishery enterprises and the administration of the city of Sevastopol.

Odessa Military District Reorganized

LD0502055593 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1933 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Reorganized army corps, mechanized divisions, and brigades are replacing the existing military force elements in the Odessa military district.

The aim of the transition to a new plan of organization and equipment is to increase the mobility and operational efficiency of troops and their capability to quickly respond to the missions assigned. According to the press center of the Odessa military district, the progress of the reorganization of units and combined units was discussed at a sitting of the military council of the district.

The work of young officers was also discussed. The military council stated that confusion and lack of confidence in their future were being observed among those who graduated from military higher educational establishments. The reasons for that are a low pay scale—the minimum income of a lieutenant is one of the lowest in the country—and being unsettled in daily life.

As a member of the military council, people's deputy Ruslan Bodelyan, chairman of the Odessa oblast executive committee, was tasked with reporting proposals and decisions by the military council on the issues discussed to the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

Minister Creates Main Defense Inspectorate

AU0402153693 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Feb 93 p 2

[Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense; place and date not given: "A Main Inspectorate for the Defense Ministry Has Been Created"]

[Text] In accordance with the order by Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, Ukraine's Minister of Defense, a Main Control and Auditing Inspectorate for the Ministry of Defense is being created. Lawyers, financiers, and workers in the commodity and foodstuffs services—all of them top-level specialists—will join the Main Inspectorate to organize an efficient fight against corruption, the misappropriation of military property, the abuse of official positions, and other violations for profit within Ukraine's Armed Forces.

The main tasks entrusted to the Defense Ministry's Main Inspectorate include the comprehensive and objective investigation of abuses by officials in the Ministry of Defense central apparatus, districts (operational commands), associations, and formations; the enforcement of financial and economic discipline and the fulfillment by the troops of the defense minister's orders and directives on these questions.

It is hoped that the newly created Main Control and Auditing Inspectorate of the Ministry of Defense will become a reliable assistant to the minister of defense in his efforts to free Ukraine's Armed Forces from the black legacy of the former USSR army.

Presidential Representatives Appeal to Kravchuk for Support

AU0402161893 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Feb 93 p 1

["Appeal to Ukraine's President L.M. Kravchuk" by 178 Ukrainian presidential representatives in rayons issued at the meeting in Kiev on 29 January]

[Text] Much Esteemed Leonid Makarovych,

We appeal to you not only as your representatives in the provinces, but also as Ukrainian citizens for whom the fate of the young state and of its people is their personal fate.

We, participants in today's meeting with you, state that it is not only an honor for us to be Ukrainian presidential representatives, but also a responsibility.

All of us, giving our consent to be your representatives, placed our own interests and interests of various parties, movements, and currents at a much lower level than the interests of our people. We see that both you and the newly formed Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers pursue an internal and external policy aimed at protecting the interests of the people of Ukraine and of the state that is being built.

The people cherish a hope that, with such a policy, Ukraine will be an independent, wealthy, and happy state with happy people.

We support, in every way, your efforts directed toward strengthening the executive power, both in central and local organs.

We approve such actions not because we want power for ourselves, as some people in the Supreme Council allege, but we want to be guided by new decrees to conduct struggle against various negative manifestations in our society. We want to enable all laborers to build an independent state through their work.

We are supported in our actions by rayon, city, and village councils of people's deputies.

However, we are alarmed by the fact that individual deputies and many central press publications have recently been spreading ideas to the effect that struggle for power is under way between state administrations and councils. These lies have not been confirmed by anyone anywhere. If conflicts do exist somewhere, they are not between organs of power but between persons. However, there have already appeared categorical assessments of the activity of state administrations, alleging that they have not justified themselves and, moreover, that they have simply become obsolete.

It is our luck that the majority of the people understand who profits by such talk and who wants to completely devastate state structures and to destroy the state itself. We are also worried by the fact that Ukraine's president does not actively protect his structures from slander and humiliation.

We are not asking for privileges or for some special status in society. We envision ourselves as actively implementing sensible presidential edicts, sensible Cabinet of Ministers decrees, and sensible laws adopted by Ukraine's Supreme Council.

We do everything to see to it that the local executive power conforms to the demands of Ukraine's president and that the Cabinet of Ministers actively implements economic reforms.

We also ask you to rely more extensively upon your structures and councils of people's deputies to use them for a more active implementation of the state policy.

We also ask you

1. To protect state administrations as organs of executive power.

2. To take care of social protection of presidential representatives.

3. To hold meetings between presidential representatives and the president or prime minister at least once every three months in order to coordinate our activity.

Our last request is not to make statements that may hamper reforms in the provinces. Use criticism of specific persons. If somebody does obstruct reforms, it is necessary to say who is doing this and where. This will only contribute to the president's authority.

We assure you that we support your policy and will protect you and your position in every possible way.

With deep respect,

Presidential representatives in rayons

Altogether 178 signatures

Yukhnovskyy Named Coordinator for Technological Aid

AU0302142393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Jan 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Directive on Ukraine's National Coordinator for Implementing International Technological Assistance" issued in Kiev on 28 January]

[Text] 1. To appoint Ihor Rafayilovych Yukhnovskyy, Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, as Ukraine's national coordinator for implementing international technological assistance for Ukraine.

2. To consider as no longer valid Ukrainian Presidential Directive No. 33 issued on 25 February 1992 "On Ukraine's Coordinator for Preparing and Implementing the Program for Technological Assistance by the Commission of European Communities."

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine

[Dated] Kiev, 28 January 1993

Belarus

Legislature Ratifies START I, Military Pacts With Russia

WS0402153093 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1407 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] On 4 February, the legislature began its morning session with debating a package of military agreements behind closed doors. The package can be provisionally divided into two groups: the START type international documents on the reduction of nuclear weapons and the documents concerning Belarus' relations with Russia concluded in July 1992.

As Supreme Council Committee Chairman Mechislav Grib informed, five documents were ratified at the morning and afternoon sessions: the agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive arms (START- I), the so-called Lisbon agreement on weapon types, the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the agreement between Belarus and Russia on the coordination of action in the military sphere, and the agreement with Russia on the strategic forces temporarily deployed on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

Taking into account the significance of these documents, a briefing for journalists was held later.

Defense Minister Cited

LD0402175693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 4 TASS—Belarus has again shown to the world its "balanced and civilised character", its desire to move along a peaceloving course towards the status of a neutral, nuclear-free state in the centre of Europe, Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko told a press conference on Thursday [4 February] commenting on the parliamentary ratifictaion of the START-1 and nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaties, as well as of the so-called Lisbon agreement on types of armaments.

The ratification is an important event not only for Belarus and the Commonwealth states, but also for the world community, he added.

Belarusian parliament also ratified two agreements with Russia—on strategic armaments and on coordination of military activities.

Republican Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy told reporters that by solving the question of nuclear withdrawal from Belarus the parliament made it possible for the military to agree with Russia on concrete terms of pulling out nuclear missiles from Belarus.

Foreign Minister Comments

LD0402201793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1840 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 4 Feb—Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko has said that the ratification by the Belarusian parliament of the strategic offensive arms treaty—START I—and its supplement, the so-called Lisbon treaty on types of armaments—is a notable event, not only for Belarus and the states of the CIS, but also for the entire world community.

Also answering media questions with him at a briefing were Mechislav Grib, the chairman of the parliamentary commission on national security, defense, and crime; and Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy. They said that the parliament of Belarus today also ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the treaty between Belarus and Russia on the strategic arms temporarily sited on Belarusian territory, and the agreement between Belarus and Russia on coordinating their actions in military matters.

Petr Kravchenko noted that Belarus does not consider itself a nuclear state, although it has nuclear missiles deployed on its territory. To a question from a BELINFORM correspondent as to whether the removal of the nuclear missiles from the territory of the republic will not mean that the countries of the world community will lose their present interest in Belarus, Petr Kravchenko replied that today Belarus has once again shown the world its "balanced and purposeful character" and its unswerving desire to follow a peace-loving course toward the status of a neutral non-nuclear state in the center of Europe.

The defense minister said the parliament of Belarus, by deciding today the important question of the removal of the nuclear missiles from the republic's territory, has enabled the military to emerge from their "state of limbo" in which the strategic forces had definite status. Now we can negotiate with Russia on a concrete scheme for the systematic withdrawal of nuclear weapons and other aspects of the operation, said Pavel Kozlovskiy.

More on Repeal of Communist Party Suspension

OW0402190193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the evening plenary session of the Supreme Soviet under the chairmanship of the head of parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, the decision to repeal the resolution of 25 August 1991 on "Temporary suspension of the activities of the Communist Party of Belarusia-Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the territory of the republic of Belarus" was adopted.

10 of the more than 300 deputies of the parliament, including Shushkevich, voted against this decision.

The resolution of the Belarus Supreme Soviet at the same time confirmed the decision of 10 December 1991 according to which the property of the communist party was transferred to the state.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The building of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus is now occupied by the Supreme Soviet of Belarus. The buildings belonging to the Belarusian communist party have been given to the other organs of executive power. The financial resources of the local party committees are distributed at the discretion of the local authorities, and the accounts of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus, according to available information, are still under arrest. The coordinator of the largest parliamentary bloc "Belarus", Gennadiy Kozlov, in an interview with Interfax, declared that property questions related to the Communist Party of Belarus should be decided with the same method adopted by Russia. He said that he considers as "correct and reasonable" the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, according to which the successor of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has the right to claim, through a court, part of the former property of the party. "On this question we must drop all emotion and strictly following the letter of the law determine which buildings were constructed with the resources of the state and which with the membership dues of communists," emphasized Kozlov.

Shushkevich, Kravchenko on Davos Economic Forum Results

WS0402133993 Minsk RID in Russian 1516 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Supreme Council Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko gave a press conference for Belarusian and foreign journalists on the results of the International Economic Forum held in the Swiss town of Davos.

The press conference was detailed and convincing. The participants informed about their meetings with the prime ministers of Finland, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, and Latvia. They also discussed several urgent cooperation issues with Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Belarusian delegation paid a visit to the European Parliamentary Union and even the center of the Orthodox community in Geneva.

Stanislav Shushkevich addressed the Davos forum with a speech on the energy problems in Belarus. In particular, he shared his views on the prospects of nuclear energy. The journalists were also informed about the work on joint projects for reconstructing the Belarusian air routes and railways running from the West to the East and for extracting oil. The Belarusian leaders believe that their participation in the forum of the world economic elite was very productive. Stanislav Shushkevich noted in conclusion: "The program was so tight that I had no time left for mountain skiing and could admire only a glimpse of this beautiful sight."

Deputy Premier Comments

LD0402182193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1745 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The benefit is obvious, this is how, at a news conference today, Mikhail Myasnikovich, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, assessed the results of the world economic forum in Davos. In particular, he stressed that at that event the republic's delegation had two main purposes: to inform the international community about our problems and approaches to reforming the economy and to meet leaders of many states and international organizations. A lot of attention at the forum was focused on forecasting the development of world markets in the next century. Answering the journalists' questions, Mikhail Myasnikovich noted his dissatisfaction with the process of reforming the economy in the republic. It could be faster but as yet, the (?necessary) legislative basis has not been created. He also told the representatives of the mass media that prices of basic foodstuffs controlled by the state will remain on the previous level.

Further Myasnikovich Comments

OW0402192893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first vice-premier, Mikhail Myasnikovich, thinks that economic reforms in the republic must be reoriented toward the republics capability and the capability resulting from the integrated economic system of the former USSR. However in his own opinion "Belarus requires a long transition period for entry into the world market with its own technology and production".

The first vice-premier especially emphasized that the necessity of this period, "thanks to the persistent position of the government", is recognized by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, with whom there was a very productive talk during the recently concluded international economic forum in Switzerland (the Belarusian delegation was led by Shushkevich—IF [INTERFAX]).

Assessing the results of his meeting in Davos, Myasnikovich especially dwelt on the results of the bilateral negotiations with the president of Bulgaria, the prime ministers of Finland and Yugoslavia, minister of economy of Switzerland, and the prime ministers of Poland and the Netherlands on the question of developing trade and economic cooperation. According to Myasnikovich it is planned that two agreements will be signed in Switzerland in the beginning of April—on trade and economic cooperation and on securing investments. He also added that Belarus "received the support" of the Swiss side on the creation of joint enterprises on the production of foodstuff, which today is exported to the republic from that country.

According to Myasnikovich the Belarusian delegation to Davos talked with representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] on a development project of telecommunication and transport system for the republic. He also added that Belarus "received approval" to participate with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on projects for the Tyumen oil extraction complex.

IF Note: The president of the EBRD, Jack Attaly, will be arriving Belarus 16 February on a three-day visit.

U.S. Envoy Predicts 'No Essential Changes' in Relations

WS0402133893 Minsk RID in Russian 1516 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Minsk held a press conference on the occasion of its anniversary.

On 31 January 1992, the Stars and Stripes were first hoisted on the balcony of Apartment 102 at the "Belarus" hotel. Since then the embassy has not only moved into its own building (although quite cramped and soon to undergo reconstruction), but has also taken definite strides in U.S.-Belarusian relations. In addition to regular U.S. humanitarian aid, both countries have concluded four serious interstate agreements on reducing weapons of mass destruction in Belarus.

In reply to the journalists' question on the policy of the new U.S. Administration, Ambassador David Swartz said that there will be "no essential changes." "In proportion to its share of population and industry among the former Soviet republics, we grant more attention to Belarus," concluded Mr. Swartz.

U.S. Firms Invest in Republic

WS0502134093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The U.S. Ambassador in Minsk considers that cooperation between the two countries helps to strengthen the economy of Belarus. Our cooperation should serve the interests of the people, said the U.S. Ambassador to Belarus David Swartz to a RIA correspondent. It has been a year since the American Embassy has been opened in Minsk. Now we can speak about concrete factors that help to strengthen the Belarus economy. We have an agreement envisioning cooperation in trade and investments. Some American companies including such giants as Pepsico, IBM, and Kodak have invested in the Belarusian economy, more than 60 American-Belarusian joint ventures have been registered in the Republic, granting local citizens well-paid jobs. In terms of humanitarian aid, there have been shipments of medicine, equipment, and ambulances worth a couple of million dollars. Belarus has received more than 200,000 tonnes of fodder grain on favorable terms.

Government Aide Denies Rumors of Economic Reform Delay

WS0502133593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1144 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] "The Belarusian Government has its own opinion on the model of market reform and the pace of privatization," stated Yevsey Makhlin, aide of the Belarusian prime minister for economic issues, at today's briefing. He stressed that Belarus was not going to copy foreign models and make privatization a goal in itself. Makhlin also added that Belarus was moving toward market economy cautiously and was correcting the course of reform.

The statement was made in response to domestic and foreign mass media reports on the deliberate delay of economic reform in Belarus. The briefing was attended by local and foreign journalists and press attaches of diplomatic missions in Belarus.

Proceedings of 3 Feb Supreme Council Session Viewed

WS0502133693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1144 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] On 3 February, the legislature began its session with secret voting on Aleksandr Sosnov, candidate to the post of Supreme Council deputy chairman. It was a second try. Earlier he was proposed for the position of first deputy chairman; however, he did not receive enough votes. After that the legislature resumed the issue of land ownership. The Agrarian Committee was authorized to polish up the document.

As if trying to make up for the lost time, the legislature then adopted two laws presented by committee Chairman Ivan Tereshko: "On Draft Customs Code of the Republic of Belarus" and "On Draft Law on Customs Duties". Another law—"On Amendments to the Belarusian Code on Administrative Offenses (Customs Offenses)"—also easily "slipped" through the legislature.

Two comments followed. Stanislav Shushkevich: "This is the way to prepare documents." Ivan Tereshko: "The customs service has received a valuable package of laws. There is every condition for improving the work of our customs officers."

The list of adopted laws was extended by the resolution "On Rules of Issuing and Legalizing Authority of Plenipotentiaries". The law defines three levels of authority which a Belarusian plenipotentiary enjoys when signing different agreements with foreign countries.

The legislature proceeded with ratifying a number of international agreements. The consular convention between Belarus and Poland is the first of its sort between Belarus and other states. Other documents were: the agreement with Poland on good neighborhood and friendly cooperation, the agreement on the principles of customs politics, and the agreement with Lithuania on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family, and criminal cases.

After that the deputies promptly adopted another two laws: "On Principles of Government Service" and "On Alternative (Work) Service".

At the afternoon session, the deputies adopted a decision to suspend the operation of the law "On Temporary Suspension of the CPSU and the BCP [Belarusian Communist Party] Activities on the Territory of Belarus". However, they introduced a special amendment which confirms that the CPSU and BCP property belongs to the state and will not be restored to them.

Shushkevich Meets IMF's European Department Head

LD0502131493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1203 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Limanovskiy]

[Text] Minsk February 5 TASS—Stanislav Shushkevich, head of the Belarusian Parliament, met here today John Oddling-Smee, director of the European Department of the European Monetary Fund (IMF) [as received].

The sides have discussed a wide range of problems, including the structural reform and economic restructuring, the financial-crediting policy and the rouble zone, the macro-economic stabilisation and prospects for cooperation with the Internatonal Monetary Fund.

Shushkevich thanked the IMF leadership for rendering financial aid to Belarus and for the credits granted it. He said that Belarus was lending an attentive ear to the recommendations of such a prestigious international organisation, but is not always able to implement them due to various objective reasons.

The sides have mapped out the principal directions of their cooperation.

Agreement Signed To Aid Development of Siberian Oil

LD0402181393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District—where almost all Siberian oil comes from, over 200 million tonnes a year—and Belarus have signed an agreement on trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. Belarus will now take part in the development of the Siberian oil deposits and in construction in the district of buildings for various social establishments. In the opinion of the Khanty-Mansi district people's deputy, (Valeriy Churilov), such projects are very important. They contribute to the creation of a single economic space for CIS countries.

Popular Front Changes Political Orientation

WS0402133293 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed article under the "News From the Capital" rubric: "Belarusian Popular Front Moves to the Center?"]

[Text] A regular conference of the Council of the Belarusian Popular Front "Adradzhene" [BNF] took place on 9 December 1992.

The participants listened to the reports presented by Zyanon Paznyak, Yuryy Khadyka, Vintsuk Vyachorka, and Uladzimir Zablotski on issues concerning the political and economic situation in the Republic and BNF's political stance. In fact, BNF's policy was defined more precisely. The majority of those who had presented reports supported the centrist political course. BNF Deputy Chairman Yuryy Khadyka occupied the opposite political platform and supported the Christian Democratic political course. The final decision will be adopted by the BNF congress. The next convention of the BNF Council will fix the date for the BNF congress.

The BNF Council has adopted the resolution "On Information Policy" which blames the antidemocratic policy of the Belarusian Government aimed at the monopolization of the Republican mass media.

The participants at the conference remarked on the lack of prospects for the CIS and the necessity to develop bilateral relations with the other members of the CIS.

Political Parties Hold Conference on Elections

WS0402133793 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian No 12, 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Article by newspaper correspondent V. Stepanov: "Convicts Should Also Vote!"; under the "Political Zodiac" rubric]

[Text] A joint conference of the Belarusian United Democratic Party, the Popular Front, the Social Democratic Assembly, the Peasant Party, the Movement for Democratic Reform, and the Party of People's Accord, thoroughly discussed three election laws drafted by the United Democratic Party, the Party of People's Accord, and the Popular Front respectively.

The participants concluded that in the current situation, the optimal decision would be the organization of the elections to the Supreme Council by constituencies and general lists of candidates in equal proportion. The conference voiced an opinion that political parties and movements should have a possibility to independently define the ways of nominating their candidates. It also recognized that it was necessary to hold elections in places of forced treatment and temporary confinement. Another conference is required to work out a final joint position.

Theft of Military Weapons Growing; Arrests Made

LD0402185793 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The theft of weapons is continuing to grow not only in hotspots of the former USSR but in our republic too. A report received by our correspondent at the public relations center of the directorate of the Committee of State Security for Mogilev Oblast is also evidence of this. Its employees, in cooperation with representatives of the militia and military counterespionage, have stopped the activities of a criminal group which organized the theft of weapons from military units and sold them for profit. The group included an officer who directly supplied weapons and three residents of the town of Osipovichi who sold the stolen weapons. These persons as well as two Lithuanian citizens who bought machine guns for U.S. dollars, have been arrested. The military procurator's office has instituted criminal proceedings. An investigation is underway.

Law Defines Citizenship of Servicemen

WS0402133093 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 9 Jan 93 p 4

[Law of the Republic of Belarus on Granting Belarusian Citizenship to Servicemen and Members of Their Families, signed by Republic of Belarus Supreme Council Chairman S. Shushkevich, 17 December 1992, Minsk]

[Text] In connection with the adoption of the military oath of allegiance to the people of the Republic of Belarus, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus **decrees:**

To grant Belarusian citizenship both to servicemen who arrived in Belarus to perform their military duty after the Law "On Belarusian Citizenship" had been adopted, who express their will to become Belarusian citizens and swear allegiance to the people of the Republic of Belarus, and members of their families (at their will) after moving to the Republic.

Personal applications of servicemen and members of their families to be granted Belarusian citizenship are forwarded to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus through corresponding ministries and departments of the Republic of Belarus.

The issues that are not regulated by this law should be resolved in accordance with the Law "On Belarusian Citizenship."

This law is valid until 31 December 1993.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 22 December 1992

Decree Implementing Citizenship for Servicemen

WS0402133193 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 9 Jan 93 p 4

[Belarusian Supreme Council's Decree "On Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On Granting Belarusian Citizenship to Servicemen and Members of their Families'"; issued in Minsk on 22 December, 1992]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council **decrees:**

1. To enact the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Granting Belarusian Citizenship to Servicemen and Members of their Families" from the day of its adoption.

2. To charge the Presidium of the Supreme Council and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus to analyze the implementation of the law, the process of taking the military oath of allegiance to the people of the Republic of Belarus, and to report this information to the Supreme Council in October-December 1993.

—To charge the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus to bring government resolutions into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Granting Belarusian Citizenship to Servicemen and Members of their Families".

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 22 December 1992

Decree on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

WS0402133493 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 15 Jan 93 p 4

[Belarusian Supreme Council's Decree "On Establishing Diplomatic Relations Between Belarus and Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, the Republic of South Africa, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan"; issued in Minsk on 5 December 1992]

[Text] Considering the appeals of the Foreign Ministries of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, the Republic of South Africa, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus with the proposal to establish diplomatic relations and the fact that this will promote the further development of multilateral relations between the Republic of Belarus and the above mentioned countries, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus **decrees:**

1. To establish diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, the Republic of South Africa, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

2. To charge the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take necessary practical measures to register the diplomatic relations with the above mentioned countries.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 5 December 1993

Supreme Soviet Approves Social Security Minister

WS0502134193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus has approved the candidacy of Olga Bronislavovna Datlib to the post of social security minister . She was born in Vitebsk Oblast of Belarus, graduated from Belarus State University, worked as a teacher in Slutskiy and Starodorozhskiy Rayons, and as a Komsomol and Communist Party functionary. In 1984, she was elected deputy chairman of Minsk Oblast Executional Committee. From 1990 to the present, she has been the manager of the Department of Social and Cultural Development at the Supreme Soviet Secretariat.

Moldova

Lucinschi Elected New Parliament Speaker

AU0402213693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1600 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Dan Dumitrescu report from Chisinau]

[Text] After three days of debate, the legislative forum of the Republic of Moldova today elected a new president, namely Petru Lucinschi, who until now was ambassador of the second Romanian state to Moscow. Alexandru Mosanu's successor ran for this position in 1990 but won 20 fewer votes than his opponent at that time, Mircea Snegur. Lucinschi also held the position of secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in 1989-1990 and he was the penultimate first secretary of the Central Committee of the Moldovan Communist Party. He is known as an able and competent diplomat with special training and great powers of influence.

Here are the official results as announced at 1605 [1405 GMT]: of the 242 deputies participating in the secret ballot, 213 voted for Lucinschi; 13 voted for Arsenie; and 10 voted for Puscasu. Six votes were canceled.

During the morning meeting at which he presented his program, Lucinschi spoke out for more active involvement of the parliament in solving the problems in the eastern and southern rayons of Moldova. The economic reform has to be continued and there is no turning back, he said. At the same time, solutions have to be sought for the numerous social problems. Lucinschi pleaded for much more effective relations between parliament and government and, in the foreign policy area, for intensifying relations with all states that have recognized Moldova.

Moldova has to maintain sound relations with Russia, which nevertheless is not quite the same as the CIS community. We know that Russia has accepted the idea of the 14th Army withdrawal and we just have to negotiate the deadline, Lucinschi said. He also added that the Transdniester problem cannot be solved except through political means.

Relations with Romania, our brother, have to be intensified in the economy and production process. These relations, which pose no problems, have to be tackled with greater resolution and seriousness, Lucinschi said.

New Chairman on Situation

LD0402215193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Petru Lucinschi was elected today out of several alternative candidates as the new chairman of the Republic of Moldova's parliament. [passage omitted]

[Begin Lucinschi recording] Everyone is aware of the situation in Moldova, but what happened today in parliament inspires me with some confidence that we will find a way out of this situation. The problem of the Dniester region and our economic and social problems are well known. However, I could sense today a desire to get out of this situation, cope, and do everything possible to see that there is peace in this land and that the people have a good standard of living. [end recording]

Present Problems 'Surmountable'

OW0402201493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan parliament has not exhausted its possibilities and can operate to the nation's benefit, announced Petru Lucinschi, the new parliamentary chairman, in an exclusive interview with Interfax immediately after his election. "The current crisis in parliament has caused temporary difficulties, [but] they are fully surmountable," he said.

Lucinschi stressed that he is mainly concerned with the settlement of the conflict in Dniester and the adoption of a new constitution. He feels the Supreme Soviet is fully capable of solving these problems.

The new speaker said that after those issues, "we will have to take up planned legislative activities—the ratification of the republic's budget and the adoption of other laws, which will allow the republic to emerge from its economic crisis."

Lucinschi also said he would try to strengthen relations between Moldova and Russia and to encourage economic relations within the CIS.

Election 'Not a Surprise' for Dniester

OW0402202193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leaders of self-proclaimed republics, Gagauzia and Dniester, declared in their exclusive interview with Interfax that Petru Lucinschi's election to the post of the Moldovan parliament's chairman was not a great surprise for Dniester and Gagauzia.

Ivan Mutkoglo, chief of Gagauzian Supreme Soviet's secretariat, found it difficult to give his evaluation of the new speaker, however, he underlined that Lucinschi is "a natural politician." Mutkoglo also expressed the hope that parliament's head "will assist in a quick solution of conflict in Gagauzia" without resorting to force.

State secretary of Dniester Moldovan Republic Valeriy Litskay noted that Lucinschi "is not only a clever by a sly politicians." "It is very difficult to foresee his next move, including solution of Dniester problem." At the same time Litskay declared that having elected Lucinschi, Tiraspol acquired one indisputable advantage in relation to Chisinau. "It will be difficult to accuse us of procommunist moods, he said, if there are two Lenins made of bronze in Tiraspol, there are three true Leninists at power: Snegur, Lucinschi, and Sangeli in Chisinau."

Dniester, Gagauz Officials 'Positive'

LD0402173793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 4 TASS—The breakaway Dniester and Gagauz regions of Moldova are positive about the election of former Communist Party boss Petru Lucinschi as parliament speaker of Moldova.

"Lucinschi is a bright, flexible and cunning politician who can look for compromises," Dniester parliament Speaker Grigoriy Marakutsa told TASS on Thursday, adding that Lucinschi is expected to "bring constructivism" to the work of the republican parliament which would finally sitch to solving the Dniester problem.

Mikhail Kindegelyan, the speaker of the Gagauz parliament, believes Lucinschi will help untie the "Gagauz knot" and assist the legislature to get out from a prolonged crisis.

Mosanu: Lucinschi 'Moscow's Servant'

OW0502120793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The ex-speaker of the Moldovan parliament, Alexandru Mosanu, commenting on the election of Petru Lucinschi as chairman of parliament said in the lobby of the session on Thursday [4 February] in Chisinau that "a new headache has appeared for President Mircea Snegur." The election of Lucinschi was not unexpected for Mosanu. "It is necessary to admit that Lucinschi is a born politician," he noted. "However it must be admitted that he has one weakness - Lucinschi, just as Snegur, is Moscow's servant." In the opinion of Mosanu the return of Lucinschi to politics "is only the first step in his ascent to the height of power in Moldova." He thinks that the new speaker "will take revenge on Snegur for his defeat in the election to the chairmanship of the parliament in May 1990."

Snegur Denies Mosanu 'Accusations'

LD0502132493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau February 5 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur believes that the resignation of Parliament Speaker Alexandru Mosanu, a supporter of reunification with Romania, will not affect relations between the two countries.

A new impulse to the cooperation will be given in the near future during a summit meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Snegur told the "MOLODEZH MOLDOVY" newspaper on Friday.

Denying Mosanu's accusations that he is supporting the Commonwealth which might develop into a new Soviet-type empire, Snegur said that "we do not intend to subordinate Moldova to Moscow as we have embarked on the path of independence and will reach the goal."

"But, you know, independent people should be clothed and fed. While Moldova is in crisis we have to travel not only to the east, but also to the west, south and north," he added.

Snegur also said that during his coming meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin he is going to raise the issue of four Moldovans who were accused of terrorism by the authorities of the breakaway Dniester region and expressed hope that they would be spared.

Snegur said that in order to save the lives of the four he is going to hold negotiations with the Dniester leaders despite the accusations of the opposition which said that he has no pride and dignity.

Russian Official Arrives To Prepare 10 Feb Moscow Summit

LD0302190993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1957 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS—Russian First Deputy Commander of ground troops Eduard Vorobyov arrived in Chisinau on Wednesday to prepare a Russian-Moldovan summit due to take place in Moscow on February 10, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry told TASS, adding that this would be the third round of talks between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur.

Vorobyov met with Moldovan Defence Minister Pavel Creanga.

Military Experts Meet

LD0402212693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today is the second day of consultations of military experts from the Moldovan and Russian Defense Ministries. According to the Moldovan side, the consultations have been progressing successfully. Five joint expert groups were set up, which visited the Left-Bank areas, where they had meetings with the leadership of the Dniester Republic and the command of the 14th Army.

Consultations Continue

LD0402191093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valery Demidetsky]

[Text] Chisinau February 4 TASS—Military experts from the Moldovan and Russian Defence Ministries are continuing consultations in Chisinau aimed at preparing a third round of talks between delegations of the foreign ministries of both countries and a meeting between the Russian and Moldovan presidents scheduled in Moscow for February 10.

During the talks the sides will continue discussing the terms of the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldova, the deployment of the Russian peacekeeping force on the territory of Moldova and other problems of mutual interest concerning military cooperation.

A delegation of the Russian Foreign Ministry is headed by Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, first deputy commander-in-chief of Russian land troops. Taking part in the consultations are the Russian Ambassador to Moldova Vladimir Plechko and Moldovan Ambassador to Russia Petru Lucinschi.

In the opinion of the Moldovan delegation, the consultations are proceeding successfully. The sides have set up five groups of experts with each group discussing a concrete range of issues.

On Wednesday, the experts visited left-bank regions where they met leaders of the Dniester region and commanders of the 14th Army.

Plechko told TASS that the consultations between military experts were held in the atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructive cooperation, which enabled to sides to lay a good basis for the success of the third round of talks between delegations of the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Meets Austrian President Klestil in Vienna

LD0402214093 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] On 3 February, during his visit to Austria, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil. The leaders of both states informed each other about the most recennt political events in their countries and highlighted the progressive nature of the development of relations between Austria and Kazakhstan. The meeting between the president of Kazakhstan and representatives of Austria's major banks and concerns, which was held in the Federal Chamber on Economy, was devoted to a search for opportunities to expand businesslike relations.

Greeting the eminent guest, the vice president of the chamber [name indistinct] pointed out that Austrian businessmen consider Kazakhstan to be a reliable partner and show a keen interest in developing economic and scientific and technical cooperation with enterprises and companies of the republic.

There was a comprehensive discussion about the problems of cooperation between the two countries, about the economic reforms in Kazakhstan and the transition of enterprises in the republic to market relations.

In the evening, Nursultan Nazarbayev attended a presentation of his autobiographic book which has been published in English by one of the London publishing houses.

In an interview with representatives of the press, the president expressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit to Austria.

Further on Visit By Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati

LD0402195693 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Today, Davlet Sembayev, first deputy prime minister, and Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov of Kazakhstan had negotiations with an Iranian delegation on an official visit to Alma-Ata, led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They touched on a whole complex of issues of bilateral cooperation, and the mutual aspiration was expressed for the more active promotion of real deeds.

Preliminary agreements were reached on the development of railway and motor transportation, on exports of Kazakh oil, on establishing joint ventures on agricultural products, on processing the production of the output from the machine-building industry, and on processing consumer goods. For these proposals, it is very important to effectively use the Caspian region. A positive role should be played by a joint commission on trade/economic cooperation.

Both sides agreed on opening a branch of the Iranian bank, Sadira, air communication between the capitals of the two states, and the training of Kazakhstan students in higher educational establishments of Iran. The head of the Iranian delegation declared that his country is ready to buy wheat and meat in Kazakhstan.

At the end of the meeting, Tuleutay Suleymenov and 'Ali Akbar Velayati signed a protocol on the results of negotiations between the governments of Kazakhstan and Iran and a protocol on mutual consultations between the Foreign Ministries. A joint communique was also adopted.

Supreme Soviet Meets, Discusses Social Issues

LD0402193893 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Today a regular meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Kenges [Soviet] was held under the chairmanship of Serikbolsyn Abdildin. Issues concerning preparations for the tenth session of the parliament were considered.

It was decided to include in its agenda the draft law on the social security of citizens, amendments to the bill on health care of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and on Article 5 of the law on the additional cost of tax. The draft law on oil has been sent back for revision.

The Presidium made responsible [words indistinct] courts of the Republic. A decision was adopted about the participation of Kazakh representatives in the work of this second special parliamentary conference on European security and CSCE.

In connection with the request of a number of parliamentarians, the Presidium has formed deputy groups, who are going to set off for cattle-breeding regions to study social issues. Information about the realization of proposals and critical notice, put forward by people's deputies at the 9th session of the Supreme Kenges, have been heard.

Nazarbayev Vetoes Law on Defense, Armed Forces

LD0402094793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0901 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Ignatov]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 4 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan imposed a veto on the law "On Defence and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan", which was adopted by the latest parliament session.

In circles close to the president they believe that the sticking point was an article of the law on the operation of enterprises, institutions and organisations to ensure the republic's defence. The military proposed that funds on preparing draftees for military service, training sessions for reserve officers and men and for other purposes be set aside from local budgets and funds of enterprises, institutions and organisations. But as such expenditures are not envisaged either in the republican or local budgets, deputies voted for them to be borne by the Defence Ministry.

On the one hand, the law says concern about the republic's defence and armed forces is a matter of the state and the entire people of Kazakhstan. On the other, deputies estimated that some of the proposed spending items are the disguised form of increasing the military budget.

Which of these points of view prevails will become clear after the regular session of the Supreme Soviet. It will open in March and is likely to consider again individual provisions of the law on defence and the armed forces as well as some of the 1993 budget's items.

Kyrgyzstan

Attitudes Toward Russian-Speaking Population Questioned

LD0402172793 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in English 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Igor Tkanchik commentary]

[Text] Hello. I'm Igor Tkanchik with the English news program from Kyrgyzstan. Today I'm going to tell you about a problem that worries lots of people here in Kyrgyzstan—that's the problem of the state language and the problem of the Russian-speaking population.

Article 5 of the project [draft] of the new constitution of Kyrgyzstan reads: The state language of the Kyrgyz Republic is Kyrgyz. The Kyrgyz Republic provides equal and free development of the other languages that are used by the population of the republic and creates conditions for studying of these languages.

At first sight, everything seems all right. The state promises to observe equal rights for all nations and all languages. But the thing is that, according to the Law on the State Language accepted in 1989, by 1994 all office work will be transformed into Kyrgyz. Recently, the schedule of transformation was accepted by the government. According to it, the office work will be fully transformed into the state language in 1997. In those organizations where Kyrgyz people form 70 to 80 percent of the personnel, this process already started on 15 April 1992.

Ignorance of the state language deprives a person of the right to work at a state organization or at a state enterprise. It is no secret that one third of the population of Kyrgyzstan, including a lot of Kyrgyzes, speak only Russian. Almost 80 percent of Kyrgyzes living in Bishkek, especially youngsters, regard Russian as their mother tongue. Such a law may be classified only as a violation of natural human rights. Nationalists call Russian-speaking Kyrgyzes mankurt, as a people who do not remember their history, their language, and national roots. First, the nationalists do not take into account that these people were deprived of their language by the communist bosses who were trying hard to please Moscow. And secondly, through Russian, the Kyrgyz folk became familiar with world culture and gained recognition as a people on the world scene.

[Words indistinct] even giving Russian the status of the language of international communication will not help the problem. You can speak Russian at the market or at home, but not at a state office. The most realistically minded deputies suggested giving Russian the status of a second state language; that would alleviate the problem of the violation of human rights which under current law is present. But no one would listen to them.

There is no denying that, living in a sovereign state, you should know the state language. Believe me, people are very enthusiastic about studying Kyrgyz. But now the situation here in Kyrgyzstan is that it is much easier to learn English than Kyrgyz. It's impossible to find a Kyrgyz-Russian dictionary. The linguists seem to be busy with politics, or writing impractical major works, but not publishing a highly needed grammar textbook. It appears that somebody finds it very profitable when the Russian-speaking population does not study Kyrgyz, but rather leaves the republic.

The problem of growing animosity between natives and other nationalities frightens people. Scenes where (?a drunk) Kyrgyz feels that the Russians should get out of my republic are starting to become a reality. Is it surprising, after all, that the Russians are seeking any opportunity to move from here to a more safe place? The people are moving to their historical motherland. But in their historical motherland they feel like aliens. Asian Russians differ much from the Russian Russians. Living here, they have acquired the oriental mentality, oriental customs, and oriental traditions. Now there are lots of mixed Kyrgyz-Russian families. That is why it is so difficult for them to (?acculturate) to their old motherland. People move to Russia, but they miss Kyrgyzstan. There are lots of letters appearing in the press in which people tell that they still have dreams about Kyrgyzstan.

I am Russian myself. I was born here in Kyrgyzstan and I consider Kyrgyzstan my motherland. All my best friends are Kyrgyzes. I love the Kyrgyz folk for their hospitality, friendliness, and kindness. Though I do not know the Kyrgyz language, I will never leave Kyrgyzstan, whatever happens.

In President Akayev's recent interview to VECHERNYY BISHKEK newspaper he said: I sincerely want everyone who loves Kyrgyzstan to remain here. I do not want anyone to leave Kyrgyzstan because of any violation of national dignity, national interests, or loss of faith in the future and while I am at the head of the government I will do my best to prevent that. I would like to instill hope in everyone, (?dissuade) them from their fears of the future, to persuade them not to get any (?sleeplessness). Here in Kyrgyzstan we have a long history of friendship and of trust with each other. By helping each other I am sure a common past experience will help us to survive and to overcome the present difficulties.

Tajikistan

'Islamic Commandos' Reportedly Attack Dushanbe Police

OW0402201293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of armed men of unidentified political affiliation on Thursday [4 February] attacked a mobile police group near Dushanbe, Tajikistan. One policeman was killed, and one seriously injured and taken to hospital. According to the Tajik National Security Committee, this as an "ordinary bandit assault." Observers believe, however, that the attackers were Islamic commandos.

Suspects Arrested in Connection With Civil Conflict

LD0502141893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1215 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Attention, citizens: The Procuracy of the Republic of Tajikistan, together with the Ministry of the Interior and the Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, has formed an investigation-operational brigade to investigate the tragic events in the republic.

At present the following people have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy with the aim of bringing about an armed seizure of power, inflaming civil war through the use of the mass media, organizing illegal armed formations, murdering citizens, seizing hostages, attacking state bodies, and committing other grave crimes: Mirbobo Mirrahimov, the former head of the republic's state television and radio; Jumakhon Azizmamadov, former deputy chief of the Internal Affairs Directorate of Dushanbe city and leader of the Special Designation Battalion; Ahmadsho Kalimov, Khaireddin Kosimov, and Khurshed Nazarov, former senior officials of the so-called people's television; and also Adzhik Aliyev and Rahimjonov, members of the presidium of the Islamic Rebirth Party.

Criminal proceedings have also been brought in connection with the aforementioned crimes against Akbar Kahorov, head of the republic's religious leadership [qaziyat]; Shodmon Yusuf, the leader of the Democratic Party; Muhamedsharif Himmatov and Davlat Usmon, leaders of the Islamic Rebirth Party; as well as members of some other opposition parties, movements, and organizations which have taken part in organizing illegal armed formations with the aim of bringing about a violent seizure of power in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Procuracy of the Republic of Tajikistan appeals to the citizens to provide assistance for a full, objective, and comprehensive investigation of the above-mentioned criminal cases and to inform the investigation-operational brigade of all known facts relating to criminal activity by the aforementioned persons. Confidential phone numbers are: 33-95-18 and 33-51-48.

[Signed] The press center of the Procuracy of the Republic of Tajikistan

Russian Guards Kill Two on Tajik-Afghan Border

OW0502120193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press service of the border guards of the Russian Federation on 5 February while preventing an attempt to break through to the territory of Afghanistan by group of Tajik citizens, a patrol of the Panj border guards was compelled to open fire. Two of the violators were killed. One of the border guards sustained gun shot injuries.

Information on January Border Incidents With Afghanistan

OW0402212593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to data presented to Interfax in headquarters of Russian frontier forces, in January on Tajik-Afghan border there were 9 clashes with trespassers who tried to violate the border in both directions. Representatives of the headquarters pointed out that overwhelming majority of violations are organized ones and are supported by armed groups from the rear and from the contiguous territory. During the armed clashes frontier guards shot dead 13 and wounded 7 trespassers, confiscated 11 units of small arms, 1,2 kilograms of drugs, 3500 cartridges, 104000 rubles.

The same month, Tajik bordering populated centers were subjected to mortar and rocket launcher shelling from Afghanistan territory three times.

Headquarters of Frontier forces reported that as of today more than 2500 Tajik refugees returned to their homeland from Afghanistan. Many of them testify that commanders of Afghan armed formations prevent returning of refugees, send them to special training centers to prepare fighters in order to send them to Tajikistan to wage hostilities.

Deputy Prime Minister's Visit to Turkey Reviewed

LD0502154693 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1300 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Abdurahmon Mukhtashyev, deputy chairman of the Tajikistan Council of Ministers, paid a visit to Turkey during January at the instruction of Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov and Council of Ministers Chairman Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal received the Tajik guest. Mukhtashyev also had meetings with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and other officials. During these meetings issues on expansion of cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Specific programs were drafted to develop economic relations.

In an interview with a KHOVAR news agency correspondent on his return from Turkey, Mukhtashyev expressed satisfaction at the results of his visit.

Among other things, Turkey has agreed to provide a loan of 50 million dollars to Tajikistan. This amount will be spent on buying various products and modern technology from that country, which are greatly needed by our national economy.

Both sides also discussed starting flights by Turkish Airlines on the Dushanbe-Ankara-Istanbul route. This will help international flights to the capital of our republic. Turkey has also agreed to pay expenses for the training of Tajik pilots in international aviation. Turkey will also pay for the renovation of Dushanbe airport and will provide a satellite receiver to the republic. The Turkish telephone company is at present preparing proposals regarding improvements in telephone communications of Dushanbe.

Fruitful discussions were also held with the Turkish health minister. Turkey has already begun providing humanitarian aid to Tajikistan. Some time ago, 14 tonnes of medicines and baby food arrived in Dushanbe. Another Turkish aircraft will bring more aid to Dushanbe during mid-February. It has also been planned to send a mobile hospital to our republic. [Words indistinct] sending raw material to Tajikistan for the needs of the national economy, and is ready to train Tajik cadres in technical and military fields. In addition, Turkey will provide assistance to Tajik businessmen on administration training in the framework of the UN development program. Turkey is also providing various computers to Tajikistan.

A Turkish delegation will visit Tajikistan in February. This will allow for the speedy resolution of specific issues regarding the expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries. The sovereign Tajikistan is confidently joining the world community. This will help the country in its development and the utilization of its natural resources at the interests of its people.

Government Will Hold Elections if Situation Stabilizes

LD0402162993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Dushanbe February 4 TASS—"The present Tajik government is prepared to hold general elections at all levels of state power on condition that the situation in the country stabilises," Abdumajid Dostiyev, deputy chairman of the Tajik parliament, said at a briefing held here today.

Dostiyev addressed foreign journalists who arrived here at the invitation of the Tajik Parliamentary Speaker Imamali Rakhmonov.

It was pointed out that despite the unstable situation most of the Tajik territory is under the government's control. As for clashes and violations on Tajik-Afghan border, the deputy speaker said that it was not the central Afghan government and Afghan people who were to blame for this, but criminal formations.

He said that a problem of Tajik refugees currently in Afghanistan was the most difficult one for the Tajik government. Attempts are being made to establish direct contacts with Afghan official authorities. According to Dostiyev, the situation is worsening since the Afghan northern territories, where the majority of Tajik refugees are staying, have come out of control of the Kabul government. Dostiyev said that Tajikistan needs the CIS' help only to guard Tajik borders, while internal political problems can be resolved by the Tajik government itself.

Rakhmonov Reconfirms Front's Authority To Carry Weapons

OW0402192993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov reconfirmed authorities of Sangak Safarov, leader of Popular Front of Tajikistan (PFT), to sign special passes which give the right to carry weapons on the republic's territory to the supporters of this organization. In his interview with Interfax Tajik leader explained expediency of this privilege by the fact that PFT armed detachments will act now "in close cooperation with special detachments of Interior Ministry and republic's National Security Committee."

As he said, on February 2 detachments of Popular Front of Tajikistan already participated in a joint operation conducted by Interior Ministry and National Security

Council aimed at confiscation of weapons in the region of Gissar, located to the east of Dushanbe. Rakhmonov has not presented any information about concrete results of the operation though he noted that "even an APC [armored personnel carrier] was found in the yard of one of the houses along with small arms."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the data presented at an expanded session of the board of republican prosecutor's office, today 13 headquarters of illegally armed formations are acting on the republic's territory. Participants of the session put forward a proposal to create a coordination center comprising employees of Interior Ministry, National Security Committee, and prosecutor's office. The major task of this center is to regulate the process of handing in of weapons illegally kept in the republic. In the opinion of local authorities, confiscation of weapons is going on rather unsatisfactory. Nowadays, according to unofficial data, the population has about 30 units of small arms.

Rakhmonov reported that leader of Popular Front intends to transfer his headquarters from Kulyab (south of Tajikistan) to the suburbs of Dushanbe. As chairman of parliament said, Safarov intends "to clarify the situation" as "many people began to accuse Popular Front of marauding and robberies."

According to Interfax, Rakhmonov and Safarov exchanged their opinions on possibility of new staff rearrangements in senior echelons of power in the republic and discussed problems connected with coordination of law enforcement efforts between official state organs and PFT detachments.

Deputy Premier, Russian Envoy on Tajik Conflict, Prospects

MK0402141393 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 6, 3-9 Feb 93 (signed to Press 2 Feb) p4

[Yuriy Kushkov reportage: "And Along Came the Man From Kulyab..."]

[Excerpts] Dushanbe—"Independence fell on our heads like a meteorite," former Tajikistan President Rakhman Nabiyev said soon after the collapse of the Union. It has taken the republic a year and a half to recover from the shock caused by that event and the ensuing internal strife, which developed into a civil war. [passage omitted]

Was there a third force behind the participants in the Tajik conflict? There is virtually no doubt about this, although there is not that much clear evidence. Some people, citing border guard information, talk about interference by countries to the south: Afghanistan, for example, supplied the Islamic fighters with guns, while people from further afield provided them with foreign currency. Other people point to Uzbekistan, the source of a considerable proportion of the combat equipment and firearms which went to the government forces.

Answering a question about whether he sees anything discreditable in Uzbekistan's participation in the conflict, Russian Ambassador to Tajikistan Mechislav Senkevich said no. In his view, cooperation between these countries is carried out on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. "And if one side asks the other to supply military equipment or protect its airspace this is a normal thing in international practice," he noted.

How stable will the new authorities in Dushanbe prove to be? In terms of forces and resources they are indeed many times superior to the antigovernment groupings. The latter retain control of only individual areas. These groupings will hardly risk large-scale actions in the very near future. But terrorist acts by them are quite possible. It should be borne in mind that, according to official data, only 3,000 of the 18,000 automatic weapons in the hands of the population have been surrendered or confiscated. The weapons are there, and, to paraphrase Stanislavskiy, they are bound to be fired sometime.

"As yet it is premature to talk about the complete stabilization of the situation in the republic," Munavarsho Nazriyev, deputy chairman of the Tajikistan Council of Ministers, believes. "The important thing is that a legitimate government recognized by all the regions has finally emerged. And a real leader has finally emerged—I am referring to Imamali Rakhmonov, who knows well the people's life. By rallying around him we can emerge from the crisis and build a proper rule-of-law democratic and yet secular state."

"The fratricidal war," Nazriyev stressed, "brought nothing but losses. The direct losses alone are estimated at 90 billion rubles [R], and taking indirect factors into account (the cotton that didn't get harvested, the fabric that didn't get woven from it, and so forth) this sum could rise to R150-200 billion. There are also the losses that cannot be expressed in rubles—the human lives. According to preliminary data. 50,000 people died during the course of the civil war. Half a million people left their homes. One person in eight became a refugee—a situation unparalleled even in Yugoslavia." [passage omitted]

The future development of the situation in this trouble spot depends on numerous factors: How strong the positions of the fundamentalists in neighboring eastern countries will be; how things go in Tajikistan's own economy. And even whether or not it proves possible to get back from Afghanistan the almost 100,000 refugees, who could be an active environment for the formation of antigovernment groupings.

The establishment of a hard-line regime in Tajikistan has not yet led to the banning of any political party, including the Islamic Revival Party. The struggle for people's minds and souls is continuing. There is a great probability that the tried and tested method of the bullet will be used as an argument here. The consequences of the civil war are too deep and the traditions of the blood feud are too strong here for everything to settle down in a single day.

Armenia

No Decision on New Prime Minister; Most Ministers To Stay

LD0502054193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Ruben Shugaryan, the Armenian president's press secretary, has said that no decision has been made yet on who is to head the republic's new government. However, Shugaryan said that most of the ministers in the government of the dismissed Prime Minister Arutyunyan would retain their posts. Shugaryan reported that Armenia's President Ter-Petrosyan would meet representatives of political parties and organizations next week in order to discuss the composition of a new government.

Chechen President Arrives Unexpectedly, Meets Officials

LD0402233693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2145 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 5 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev arrived here unexpectedly late on Thursday night. It is not yet known what the aim of his visit is or how long he will be staying in Yerevan.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from semiofficial sources that Dzhokhar Dudayev telephoned Yerevan from the aircraft and announced his intention to land. According to the same information, the Chechen president has already held meetings with representatives of the Armenian leadership.

Karabakh Official Holds Talks in Yerevan on Conflict

NC0402194293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1421 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Yerevan-Stepanakert, February 4 (SNARK-KAN [KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY])—[dateline as received] The working visit to Yerevan, undertaken by Robert Kocharyan, the head of the Karabakh State Committee of Defence, has come to an end. During the visit he met with government members and authorities. Questions on finance and economic help to Karabakh and further strengthening of commercial and cultural ties between both republics have been discussed.

"In spite of the critical situation, the Armenian leadership agreed with all our suggestions and expressed readiness to support Karabakh, which is in a difficult situation because of war in the region," said Kocharyan to a reporter of KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY, after his returning from Yerevan. Kocharyan was also received by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. During the meeting, they were trying to find new ways to solve politically the Karabakh problem and to stabilize the situation in the region.

Government Acts To Get Industry Back to Work

OW0402150593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Armenian Government press center, the government, at its meeting held on Wednesday [3 February] and chaired by acting Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, decided to put the republic's industry back into operation on February 8.

Between 300 and 400 enterprises are to resume work, mainly those fulfilling orders for the state.

Increase in Gas Supply Raises Power Generation

NC0502070193 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Armenian Energy and Fuel Ministry just informed our correspondent that the volume of gas coming to Armenia has increased as of today, now totaling 140,000 cubic meters per hour as compared to the previous total of 120,000 cubic meters. This became possible after the (Chimen) pumping station in Osetia was put into operation.

Now, 3.4 million cubic meters of gas is being received per day. The incoming gas is being supplied to the power stations, which are now generating some 8 million kilowatt-hours.

Twelve million more kilowatt-hours of power is being produced by the hydroelectric plants. Thus, 20 million kilowatt-hours of power is now being generated in the republic each day.

Caution About Increased Relations With Turkey

NC0502070293 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to Zhirair Liparityan, the Armenian president's adviser on international affairs, the visit he and Davit Shakhnazaryan, the president's personal envoy, made to Turkey and their contacts with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and other officials produced satisfactory results.

This is not the time, however, to engage in rosy dreams, let alone entertain expectations from Ankara. Regional developments and history do not allow us to entertain the idea that Ankara could welcome a stable and developing Armenia on her northeastern border. It would be convenient for Turkey to have an undeveloped and economically and politically dependent Armenia, on whom it could impose its will or whims, or just to ignore Armenia.

We cannot ignore the statement by the Turkish ambassador to Baku that Armenia is a bone stuck in Turkey's throat in terms of Turkey's interests from the Balkans to the Great Wall of China.

For the last six months, the Turkish Government has been ostensibly examining the issue of supplying power to Armenia by Turkey or via its territory. We believe this issue will be examined for eternity; Ankara's arguments about technical difficulties should be understood to mean political difficulties.

If Turkey had really been interested in establishing normal good neighborly relations with Armenia, it would have given a positive reply long ago to Armenia's proposals to establish diplomatic relations. In addition, it would not have linked ties to Armenia's relations with a third country: the resolution of the Karabakh problem.

The superficial Turkish-Armenian contacts and the supply of loaned grain to Armenia is a merely temporary situation that helps improve Ankara's image in the international arena. Therefore, Turkey's assurances that it is interested in the establishment of peace and stability in the region should be confirmed not in words but in deeds. It is obvious that an even more effective role in the establishment of peace and stability in the region befalls those states that regard Turkey as their political ally.

Azerbaijan

President Discusses Results of Talks With Georgia

OW0402184693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1827 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [3 February], Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze completed their talks in Baku and signed the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual security. The two officials also concluded a bilateral trade and economic agreement for 1993.

During a press conference, Elchibey highly estimated the results of the summit talks and the joint documents which "indicate that the situation can be improved." He believes that the results of the talks were of historic significance and that they will bring about positive changes in the whole of the Caucasian region.

Elchibey also pointed out, that "the ice of mistrust and alienation between the Caucasian peoples will start to melt." To quote the president, a major step towards peace in the Caucasus was made in Baku. He also expressed hope that if Azerbaijan and Georgia manage to strengthen their relations and make them more stable and peaceful, the neighboring republics will [word indistinct] a great deal, too. In his opinion, the confrontational mentality will be gradually replaced by the mentality of tolerance and reconciliation.

He is convinced, that the implementation of the concluded agreements will set a good example to other Caucasian peoples. During the past five years journalists referred to the Caucasus as a zone of instability, clashes and conflicts, said Elchibey. He also expressed hope that the summit will help change this image and turn the Caucasus into a region of friendship, cooperation and good-neighborly relations.

He praised Eduard Shevardnadze's diplomatic activity and highly estimated his vast experience.

In his turn, Eduard Shevardnadze stated that the talks in Baku "are laying the foundation for qualitatively new Azeri-Georgian relations, based on the principles of international law." He also agreed that the Baku summit "will have a positive impact on the situation in the Caucasus."

To quote the Georgian leader, the talks with President Elchibey proceeded in an atmosphere of sincerity and understanding, and noted that the level of relations between the Azeri and Georgian leaders creates proper conditions for the attainment of the set goals.

He told Interfax that the talks were extremely productive. "This is a diplomatic assessment," he said. "The talks will open a new chapter in our relations, as I expected," he added.

Azeri Prime Minister Ali Masimov told Interfax that broader trade and economic contacts between the two states will help strengthen bilateral relations and bring about positive changes in Georgia and Azerbaijan. The two states will start implementing the reached agreements without delay, he said.

Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze told Interfax that the talks dealt with all aspects of bilateral relations (political, economic, cultural and humanitarian). In his opinion, the summit was a success because both parties demonstrated competence and professionalism during the work on the documents.

Azeri Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov believes that the Baku summit will promote the stabilization processes in Trans-Caucasus and in the Caucasus as a whole. He also noted that almost no problems had arisen during the talks, all of which points to the thorough preparatory work done by experts.

15-Million Ruble Credit Given

NC0402194693 Baku TURAN in English 1132 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 4 Feb (TURAN)—In spite of the considerable difficulties Azerbaijan will grant this year Georgia credit amounting to 15 billion rubles.

The agreement on it was signed yesterday at the last moment of finishing of official visit of the Georgian delegation in Baku.

Oil products and engineering, industrial, and chemical goods will be delivered to Georgia on credit in the first place.

24 Agreements Concluded

NC0402201693 Baku TURAN in English 1131 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Baku (4 Feb) TURAN—The state visit of the Georgian state's head Eduard Shevardnadze in Baku was ended by the signing of 24 agreements, concerning different spheres of co-operation, as well as the agreement "On friendship co-operation and mutual security."

As the diplomats of both sides mentioned, the concept of the mutual security does not touch military aspects of co-operation, and stipulates only the coordination of political efforts on regulation of conflicts in the region. The conception of the national security of both states lies on its base. Georgia and Azerbaijan agreed not to admit the usage of their territory for activities threatening the national security of each other.

The Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Aleksandr Chikvaidze said yesterday, that Georgia should like to see more active role of Azerbaijan in the establishment of peace in the region, and Eduard Shevardnadze remarked that he would not mind the mediation of Azerbaijan in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and also announced on his readiness to be a mediator between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

As the TURAN agency was informed, the Georgian diplomats expressed their interest in intermediary efforts of Azerbaijan in regulation of questions with the northern-Caucasus republics particularly the establishment of the contact with General Dudayev [chairman of the Chechen Republic's Supreme Soviet].

Commenting [on the] results of the Azerbaijani-Georgian summit, observers remark that Baku succeeded in rehabilitation of traditional historical relations with the northern-Caucasus republics and begin to play an important role for consolidation of stability in the region.

Defense Ministry Cited on Armenian Attack 5 Feb

NC0502142193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1224 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 05.02.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian occupational forces try to stretch forces of Azerbaijan national Army along the battle line, correspondent of ASSA-IRADA agency was told at the Ministry of Defence of republic. The Armenian unit of sabotage from the military base of Vankli swooped down brutally upon the Azerbaijanian villages of Chiragli and Narindzhlar of bordering Kelbedzhar district. Raised by alarm, military units of republic repulsed the attack of enemy and inflicted a great defeat on them.

For the last week as the result of military operations conducted by military forces of Azerbaijan, it became possible to take the control of some strategical heights at the territory of Khodzhavend [Martuninskiy] district in the upper part of Karabakh. Having not resigned themselves to the losses, Armenian troops started their attack from Garachug and Kuropatkino with the aim to win over the positions lost. Our troops delivered [a] hard stroke on [the] enemy. Having left a tank and great number of people on the field of battle, the enemy ran away. At the present the operative situation at this area is under [the] full control of [the] Azerbaijanian side. It was relatively calm in other zones of military actions at night on February 5.

Commentary Accuses Armenia of Terrorist Activities

OW0402135593 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Feb 93

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] A new round of Armenian international activity began during the first days of the new year, not only in the diplomatic sphere, but by the quite obvious activation of various kinds of Armenian terrorist organizations. Here is a commentary by Samir Askerkhanov.

[Begin Askerkhanov recording] The explosion of the pipeline near Marneuli, Georgia, which carries fuel to Armenia from Russia, is a typical and characteristic provocative action by the Armenian propaganda which clearly has a terrorist bent. And it is most likely that this diversion was carried out by the Armenian special forces to achieve several concurrent aims:

First, the allusions by Armenian statesmen in recent times about the cold winter and the blockade sounded completely unconvincing against the background of military activity by the Armenian expeditionary corps and did not provoke the due—from the Armenian point of view—international response. It was a necessary step that could have possibly become the catalyst for a more active intervention in the Karabakh conflict by various countries and international organizations;

Second, a number of sharp utterances by the Armenian leadership to the Georgian people and its government, and also the far from loyal attitude of the Armenian community in Georgia towards the local authorities, demanded that a situation be created so that the Georgian leadership would be put into a position where it could not actively express its opinion on these actions;

Third, news about the visit of Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council of Georgia, to Azerbaijan and the planned signing of a number of very important interstate agreements, naturally could not but worry the

Armenian leadership which, to achieve its dirty plans, requires that our republic be internationally isolated; and

Fourth, they want this explosion to discredit the Azerbaijani population living in Georgia. And it would have been very strange if that explosion near Marneuli had not occurred. [end recording]

Economic Accords With Iran Replace Those With Russia

LD0402231293 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The weakening of Russia's presence on the Azerbaijani market is compensated by Iran's economic expansion. An accord has been reached on the construction of the Mindzhevan-Ordubad railway line linking Azerbaijan with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic across Iranian territory. An agreement has been signed for 1993 for the delivery of Iranian gas to Azerbaijan in exchange for oil, diesel fuel, and other output (conditioners, refrigerators, etc.). Among the joint Iranian-Azerbaijani projects that have been implemented is the cultivation of sugarbeet in Azerbaijan's subtropical south, with its subsequent processing into sugar in Iran; the construction according to an Iranian project of sugar refineries in Azerbaijan; the sale of 23 Mercedes passenger buses, manufactured in Iran under the licence of the Daimler-Benz firm; and the production of domestic electric appliance in Tabriz by the Mitaba joint Azerbaijani-Iranian enterprise under an Italian license.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Wins Abkhazia 'Political Victory'

LD0502094993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi Feb 5 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, has scored an important political victory on Thursday [4 February] after he told the Georgian parliament that he would resign if his draft resolution was not approved. The Georgian lawmakers were discussing the situation in Abkhazia in close connection with the Georgian-Russian negotiations. The debates, which lasted behind closed doors for two days running, a total of 28 hours, were marked by quite a few dramatic turns, including the resignation threat.

Two drafts, tabled by radicals, called for the suspension of negotiations until the conflict in Abkhazia was completely settled, but the MPs [members of parliament] approved a third version, drawn up by the chairman of the State Council.

It consists of two points. Firstly, the parliament entrusts the head of state and the government to conduct talks with Russia with due account of Georgia's national interests. Secondly, the parliament, including every deputy and the head of state, must submit within ten days recommendations and concrete proposals to settle the conflict in Abkhazia.

This shows that Shevardnadze was able to convince the parliament, to overcome the resistance of some of its members, and to win over to his side some of the radicals. He proved that the talks with Russia were vitally important for Georgia and that they should be continued, parallel with efforts to settle the conflict in Abkhazia.

Kitovani: Russian Role in Abkhaz Settlement 'Essential'

MK0502100593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 93 p 3

[Nodar Broladze report: "Kitovani: Russian Participation in Abkhaz Settlement Essential. UN Aid Not Needed Yet"]

[Text] On 4 February the Georgian parliament continued to discuss problems relating to the conflict in Abkhazia. The session continues to take place behind closed doors, a point on which a section of deputies—supported by Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who was to deliver a report on the military situation in Abkhazia—had insisted 2 February, when the discussion of the Abkhaz question began.

In an interview with a VECHERNIY TBILISI correspondent, Kitovani stated that the Abkhaz problem can still be resolved by political methods. First and foremost this means top-level talks between Georgian head of state Shevardnadze and Russian President Yeltsin. Kitovani stressed that Russia's participation in this process is simply essential.

Asked to what extent assistance from UN forces in settling the conflict is realistic, Kitovani said that as yet he does not believe that Georgia needs to resort to UN support, at least at the present stage. "Furthermore the United Nations is not in a position to resolve the question of bringing a military policing force into Abkhazia without agreement with Russia," Kitovani added.

The defense minister confirmed that he had played a substantial role in ensuring that fewer and fewer mercenaries from the North Caucasus remain in Abkhazia.

Meanwhile, according to data from the republic infectious diseases hospital, an epidemic of one of the most severe diseases—meningococcal meningitis—is spreading in Georgia.

Ten cases of the disease have been recorded in Tbilisi, and two patients have already died. There have also been deaths in Kutaisi, Batumi, and Pasanauri. Georgian Health Ministry spokesmen stated that the republic infectious diseases hospital is already experiencing a shortage of medicines to treat this disease.

On 4 February the newspaper SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA published a report about an incident which happened 2 February. According to a report from the Transcaucasus Military District Press Center, at about 1500 hours on 2 February a group of 17 men attacked a Transcaucasus Military District unit in the vicinity of the village of Vaziani, 10 km from Tbilisi, with the intention of capturing military equipment.

One of the unit's officers informed the commander of the 405th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the attack. A regimental reconnaissance platoon and one motorized infantry battalion were mobilized in response.

According to information made available to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent at the Transcaucasus Military District Press Center, the assailants were surrounded and disarmed. They proved to be special-purpose troops of the Georgian Defense Ministry; the group was led by Captain Shota Aleksanidze, who claimed that this military unit's equipment belongs to the Georgian Defense Ministry and they had come for it. He could produce no corroborative documents.

The assailants were released after their weapons (nine automatic weapons) had been confiscated. There were no casualties.

Lawmaker Says Abkhaz Parliament Against UN Presence

OW0502114893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a news-conference in Moscow on Thursday [4 February], Abkhazia's lawmaker Zurab Achba [name as received] censured the decision made by the Security Council on January 28 to send a mission to Abkhazia to explore the possibility of deploying UN peace-keepers in the republic. He said that when it adopted the decision, the Security Council was guided by the position of Georgia alone. He declared that the Abkhaz Parliament would insist on the participation of both sides in any UN debate concerning the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

Mr. Achba said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that Abkhazia's Parliament was against UN presence in his republic. However, he believes it would be reasonable to keep CIS or Russian troops there. He stressed that by offering Abkhazia autonomy within Georgia the west held "a pro-Georgian position." Mr. Achba argues that since there are no democratic institutions in Georgia, autonomy "cannot guarantee Abkhazia's rights."

Defense Ministry Reports on Abkhazian Attacks

OW0502114493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the night of Friday the Abkhazian side attempted an attack around the Gumista River in the villages of Shroma and Kamani. However, as INTERFAX learnt from the press center of the Georgian Ministry of Defense, the attack had been warned by the Georgian artillery. The battle lasted an hour and Georgia sustained no casualties.

Parallel with this, Abkhazian forces started concentrating around the village of Nizhnaya Eshera. However no attack was launched here.

In the Ochamchir district the situation was calm according to the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

Meanwhile according to the Abkhazian Ministry of Defense on the night of Friday on the front line around the Gumista River there was active artillery and machine-gun fire. Also employed were rocket artillery and "Grad" launchers. The Abkhazian Ministry of Defense confirms that as a result of the exchange of fire up to 10 Georgian soldiers were killed.

In Ochamchir district of Abkhazia there is rare shooting and there is no active combat action.

The delivery of humanitarian aid to the Abkhazian town of Tkvarcheli besieged by Georgians continues.

On Thursday during an exchange in Ochamchir district the Georgian side released an operator of the Abkhazian television, Akhra Akaba. Two other journalists held by the Georgian side along with the crew of the Russian helicopter in January are still in Sukhumi.

Helicopters Evacuate 105 More People From Tkvarcheli

OW0402174793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [4 February] 105 more people, mainly women, old people and children of Abkhazian nationality, were evacuated from the city of Tkvarcheli besieged by Georgian forces to Sochi and Adler by five Russian helicopters. Earlier the same day these helicopters delivered about 50 tons of food stuffs and medicines to Tkvarcheli.

Interfax was informed in Sochi-based headquarters of Russian State committee on emergency situations that about 10 helicopter with cargoes for Tkvarcheli residents are to fly on Friday, February 5; these helicopters are supposed to take back predominantly Russian speaking residents of the city.

Chikvaidze Says Russian Forces To Remain Until 1995

OW0402174993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference on Thursday in Tbilisi, republic's Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze reported that at their third round of negotiations Russian and Georgian delegations reached an agreements that Russian forces will remain in Georgia until 1995.

According to Chikvaidze, the parties also agreed that Russian units stationed in Abkhazia will be subordinate to command of Group of Russian Forces in Transcaucasia [GRFT]. The GRFT command, in its turn, will coordinate its actions with Georgian leadership.

The parties revealed several contradictions in the course of discussions. In Chikvaidze's words, Russian party "is trying to connect signing of a general Russian-Georgian treaty with settlement of Abkhazian problem." Georgia believes that it is necessary to primarily conclude a bilateral agreement in order "to force Abkhazian separatists to view the current events in another aspect," the Minister pointed out.

Shevardnadze Criticizes Liberals' Stance on Russian Treaty

PM0302125393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Besik Urigashvili report: "Feelings Running High on Treaty With Russia"]

[Text] Tbilisi—In an interview with Georgian Television last Sunday [31 January], Eduard Shevardnadze did not rule out the possibility of a nationwide referendum if the pressure on parliament from a number of political parties with regard to the conclusion of a Russo-Georgian agreement were to persist.

Last week 32 political parties and organizations held their latest session, which examined the course of the Russo-Georgian talks in sharply negative terms. Many of the parties taking part in the conference oppose the conclusion of the treaty, while others criticize certain articles in the draft. Irakliy Tsereteli, the very radical chairman of the National Independence Party, proposed setting up a coordinating organ for the national liberation movement and stated that the national liberation struggle in Georgia would go on. But this position differs somewhat from that of a number of liberal parties, which are calling for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops—whom they deem to be forces of occupation—and consider it acceptable for Georgia to leave the Russian sphere of influence forthwith.

But, on the whole, the liberals are not against the treaty, they just have considerable reservations. Their position was formulated by Nodar Natadze, leader of the People's Front of Georgia and chairman of a parliamentary commission. In their opinion, the treaty should envisage the speediest withdrawal of Russian troops, first from Abkhazia and then from all Georgian territory. Moreover, in the liberals' opinion, the treaty should not have any articles that envisage the sides' making reciprocal commitments on protecting the rights of ethnic minorities and ethnic groups. This issue, the liberals believe, is regulated by international law and should not be covered by a bilateral agreement, since it gives one side an opportunity to intervene in the other state's internal affairs. Nor do they like the title of the draft treaty—on friendship and cooperation. In their opinion, the treaty should be more modestly titled—on the principles of interstate relations.

Responding to this massed attack on his policy in relations with Russia, the Georgian leader called the radicals' policy confrontational, childish, and dangerous. This kind of policy of confrontation with any of our immediate neighbors could result in a national disaster for Georgia, Shevardnadze believes.

"I cannot pursue a state policy based on sheer emotion, without taking account of the consequences of specific political actions," the head of the Georgian parliament and state stated. "Some 10 years from now, when the full ruin of this policy will be evident, nobody will remember some consultative organ of political parties—full responsibility for the very grave consequences will be laid at the authorities' door."

At the same time, Shevardnadze expressed hope that things would not go so far as a referendum and that parliament would have the courage to withstand the pressure. But, judging by everything, the opposition does not intend to give ground, and is bringing up its "big guns"—the radical students. The students intend to "sort things out" in connection with the position in Abkhazia and with the progress in the Russo-Georgian talks. In the first case they will be calling for an immediate military victory and, in the second, for the breaking off of all relations with the former metropolis. And they will undoubtedly be threatening to engage in civil disobedience.

Kitovani, Speaker, Russian General Cited on Troops Issue

PM0402143193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Leonid Pozdeyev, Petr Karapetyan, and Sergey Prokopenko under the "Events and Commentary" rubric: "Will Russian Troops Stay in Georgia?"]

[Text] As the Russian-Georgian talks progress it is possible to trace certain patterns—patterns not so much in the talks as surrounding them.

For example, as soon as the sides got down to the question of the presence of our border troops in Georgia, an attack was staged on a Russian border troop storage depot in Tbilisi, as a result of which two servicemen were killed. And since discussion of the status of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus started the situation surrounding them has sharply deteriorated. This has already been reported by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

But what about officials? Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, for example, stated in one interview: "I think the Russian Army, apart from border troop units and air defense troops, should leave the territory of Georgia. While the air defense forces will leave soon, the border troops units should remain all the same for a certain time."

However, Georgian Parliamentary Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze expressed a different viewpoint the other day:

"The stance adopted by the numerous political parties of Georgia which formed the consultative organ of the national liberation movement and which advocate the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgian territory is due either to lack of knowledge or to reluctance to appreciate the role which the Russian troops are performing in protecting Georgia's state boundaries."

He also noted that today, when the republic does not have a proper well-trained and well-equipped army, it has more interest than ever in enjoying good-neighborly relations with Russia.

As we can see, the Georgian officials' stances do not coincide. Therefore a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent met with Major General Boris Dyukov, deputy commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus, and asked him to set out its prospects.

"Everything will depend on the results of the Russian-Georgian talks which are now under way," he observed. "As far as I am aware, at present the Georgian side is insisting that the peacemaking forces in Abkhazia and South Ossetia be placed under our group's command. If the Georgian leadership continues insisting on that, we will have to leave this country, I think."

"Do you consider such a condition unacceptable?"

"Our group can remain here only to protect the territory of Georgia from potential external aggression. If, however, the peacemaking forces are placed under our command, we will be engaged not in combat training, but, to put it bluntly, in separating people fighting inside Georgia itself. Such a status is unacceptable to us."

We can only await the results of the talks. However, in the opinion of Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin, member of the Russian Federation government delegation, a fourth round in Moscow is unavoidable.

Security Council Debates Call-Up Problems, Single Army

AU0502104893 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 26 Jan 93 p 2

[Report from the Press Secretariat of the Head of State: "In the Security and Defense Council"]

[Text] **On 23 January, a session of the National Security and Defense Council was held at which the question of the call-up of conscripts to the Army was discussed.**

Prior to the discussion Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze delivered a statement concerning the incident that had taken place in Tbilisi the day before [the attack against a Russian supply base during which two Russian border guards were killed] and the blowing up of the gas pipeline to Armenia.

General Anatoli Kamkamidze, first deputy minister of defense, spoke about the current situation regarding the call-up to the Army. He presented concrete facts and examples that show that specific difficulties have manifested themselves of late in this respect and that, in a whole number of rayons, call-up plans are not being implemented.

Tbilisi rayon gamgebelis [local administration chiefs], the heads of military departments, the republic's Procurator General Tedo Ninidze, and Georgian Interior Minister Temur Khachishvili expressed their views regarding this question.

The speech delivered by Kote Gabashvili, the city's mayor, was sharp and constructive. He spoke about the anarchy [ganukitkhaoba] that we have encountered at each step in the conflict zone [Abkhazia]. In the opinion of the mayor, the situation would not be rectified until laws were implemented, radical measures adopted to improve soldiers' living conditions, and public awareness reawakened.

Jaba Ioseliani, deputy chairman of the National Security and Defense Council, spoke about the mood of indifference that reigned among us. In his opinion, proceeding from the serious criminal situation existing today in which the police alone is unable to tackle the violent crime, it was necessary to reestablish civilian patrols around the clock so that everyone could protect their own home, street, and yard.

The work of the session was summed up by Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze. He expressed his agreement with the remarks and proposals of the speakers and emphasized that the creation of a single army was the primary and immediate task and that not only the Ministry of Defense but also all departments, establishments, and citizens had to become active in this matter for posterity. Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze stated that all measures were being taken in order to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. However, no matter when the war ends, a single army has nevertheless to be created and, moreover, this should be done as quickly as possible. It is necessary to bring back Georgian officers serving in the Russian Army who can offer effective help. It is necessary to strictly control the work of the republic's military departments. In order to restore the feeling of patriotism among the people, Georgian television has to prepare special programs reflecting the process of the creation of a Georgian national army. The press should devote much attention to the same theme. Naturally, we will not interfere in the independence of the press but, when it is a question of the salvation of Georgia, every paper, irrespective of its standpoint, should proceed from the necessary interests of the nation.

The country's leader informed the participants in the session that a draft decree on "the call-up of conscripts and reservists to the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces" had been prepared and that the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense and the chiefs of military combined units and units should implement the appropriate measures for accommodating conscripts, making timely preparations for equipping barracks with necessary resources, and ensuring food and medical services. The Security and Defense Council should receive a report on the results of the work carried out by 20 February 1993.

Chikvaidze Denies Sale of Military Aircraft to Iran

LD0502052393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze has denied reports alleging that during a Georgian Government delegation's recent visit to Iran an accord was attained on selling Su-25 aircraft to Tehran, the ANI agency reports.

Estonia

Laar on New Economy Minister, Weapons Purchases

WS0402130693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1216 GMT 3 Feb 93

[From 3 February RAHVA HAAL, HOMMIKULEHT, pp. 1, 6]

[Text] Wednesday, February 3—The government's candidate for the Economy Minister is Toomas Sildmae, Premier Mart Laar announced at the news conference yesterday. The matter was discussed by the coalition and the government yesterday morning and Laar was to sign the appeal to the president to appoint Sildmae to the post immediately after the news conference. Sildmae has been heading the "Finest Hotel Group" which owns the only four-star hotel in Tallinn, the "Palace." Defence Minister Hain Rebas announced of the invalidation of the entry permission for 250 Russian soldiers. According to Premier Laar the Estonian-Russian negotiations were interpreted too liberally by some Defence Ministry officials. Rebas described it as a "major international political mistake of the ministry." Laar and Rebas neither denied nor affirmed the rumors about the Estonian government's intent to buy weapons from Israel. "The Defence Ministry is naturally interested in purchasing weapons from any sources," Rebas admitted, adding that he was offered 4 "Stinger" missiles recently. Interior Minister Arvo Niitenberg described the investigation of the oil theft affair. The government passed a resolution on the order of returning property to former owners last Thursday [28 January]. The resolution increases the powers of the local governments and the rights of the persons claiming their former property, Justice Ministry expert Erkki Silvet said. The government approved a resolution yesterday on temporary right to use land. The government discussed the draft laws on collective labour agreements and labour disputes prepared by the Trade Unions Central League. Laar had earlier promised to present the drafts to the Riigikogu within 100 days but missed the deadline by four days. Trade Unions Central League chairman Raivo Paavo accused the government of breaking its word last Friday. The government is going to present the Riigikogu a draft law on amendments to the 1938 citizenship law which contradicts the present constitution. The draft was prepared by government adviser Aino Lepik von Wiren. The citizenship law is outdated and a completely new one should be prepared, Social Minister Marju Lauristin said at yesterday's news conference.

Laar Discusses Government's First 100 Days in Power

OW0402193093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During its first 100 days in power, the government mainly had to neutralize hot points. Prime Minister Mart Laar announced this on national television, summing up the first stage of his cabinet's activities. However, he stressed, nonetheless they "managed to put right the work of the cabinet and keep the situation in the republic stable." This, the prime minister feels, was their greatest achievement.

Laar said the government is optimistic about the future of Estonia's economy. This optimism, he said, is based on the results of the past year. The prime minister stressed the "enormous" difference between the republic's current economic situation and the situation it was in a year ago. However, he believes the real improvements, which will be felt by each Estonian resident, are still in the distance. The cabinet head feels the question now is "whether we'll be able to give a new jolt to the economy or whether we'll take the course of quickly increasing salary and pension payments by raising taxes." Stressing the cabinet's attempts to revive the economy, Laar is convinced that under the current conditions it would be pointless to raise taxes. He said, "the government will conduct a reasonable tax policy, directed at lowering taxes, especially for enterprise structures which are investing in and expanding industry."

Laar assured television viewers that "under the current government's rule the kroon will not be destabilized, despite the pressure which has been and is being placed on it. Yet we should realize that the fight is not over yet."

Among the main problems the government faces, the prime minister named the fight against crime. "So far we have not been able to form an atmosphere of security," he claimed. However, cabinet head praised the activities of the police, who, he said, "began to show themselves as a real force," especially in areas such as the fight against narcotics trade and metal theft.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to a survey conducted at the end of last year by the EMOR firm, only 33% of the republic's population supports the activities of the current government, headed by Mart Laar. 42% were opposed to it, and 25% were undecided. Mainly, Laar's government was accused of incompetence. EMOR specialists speculated that the low popularity of Laar's cabinet in comparison with the government before it was caused largely by the fact that since Estonia achieved independence the country has lacked a unifying political element, and people are growing more concerned with economic problems.

Citizens Union Urges Immediate Replacement of Government

OW0402212293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Citizens Union is calling on the republic's State Assembly to immediately dissolve the incumbent Cabinet and replace it with a national unity government. In the opinion of the Citizens Union, the new government should represent all the political organizations of the Estonian citizens. Now, the Citizens Union is going to initiate consultations in that regards with representatives of various parliamentary factions.

The Citizens Union chairman, Juri Toomepuu, said at a press conference in Tallinn on Thursday [4 February] that it would be an "ideal variant" if the State Assembly dissolved itself, as a body that "is no longer trusted by the people". He said, however, that the Assembly would never do so, for most of its members are "perfectly sure that they would not be re-elected into a new parliament."

The Citizens Union regards as its immediate objective the replacement of ministers of foreign affairs, finance, defense, interior, agriculture and justice. "The people have lost confidence in the government no sooner that they found out who were appointed to these posts," Mr Toomepuu asserts.

The Citizens Union members accused Marju Lauristin, minister of social affairs, of drafting a bill which would entitle masses of "illegal immigrants to the Estonian citizenship."

Meanwhile, in the words of Mr Toomepuu, defense minister Hain Rebas "has no idea of what he ought to do."

"It goes without saying that the prime minister, who has formed such a government, should also submit his resignation," leader of the Citizens Union remarked.

The Estonian Citizens Union was incepted [as received] in October, 1992, by the deputies of the radical faction "Eesti Kodanik" (Estonian Citizen) of the republic's Supreme Soviet.

New Ambassador to UK Interviewed on Ties

WS0402131693 Tallinn BNS in English 2330 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 03, BNS—In the opinion of Estonian parliament deputy Riivo Sinijarv [name as received], his appointment to the post of the Estonian Ambassador to the United Kingdom testifies to the government's wish to strengthen the British-American line of the state's foreign policies, and to turn the foreign policy into a foreign economic policy.

Sinijarv is one of the opposition leaders of the Estonian State Assembly and his appointment was made public on Tuesday [2 February]. In an interview to BNS, Sinijarv expressed hope that on the 75th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia (February 24) he is in London and can meet local Estonians there.

Sinijarv who also leads the Estonian Association of Small Enterprises said that before his withdrawal from the parliament, he is going to submit a bill on favouring small entrepreneurship. Sinijarv has wished to leave the parliament for a long time motivating it with the desire to bring the maximum profit to Estonia. In his opinion, the ambassador's post gives him the chance.

Sinijarv said that if anyone thinks that "a troublesome opposition leader was sent to London just to get rid of him," he is mistaken.

He is not going to give up his political line or the Assembly Party but will follow everything and criticize everything that needs criticism.

He estimated the Estonian-British relations as "interesting" and mentioned that Great Britain had its role in Estonia's independence. Sinijarv also said that London is a major banking centre of Europe and stressed the significance of the historical relations of Estonia and Great Britain. "Thanks to the modern Bren guns brought from England, Estonians were able to win the War of Liberty," Sinijarv said.

Lithuania

Upcoming Presidential Elections Becoming 'More Dynamic'

OW0402212093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidential elections campaign in Lithuania, quiet at the start, is becoming more and more dynamic.

In Kaunas, where acting president of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas was meeting with his electors on Thursday, several picketers popped up with insulting posters, while verbal altercations between his opponents and supporters eventually translated into a brawl. Lithuanian police had to interfere.

The other presidential candidate, Stasys Lozoraitis, on the same day visited Salcininkiai region which is populated predominantly by the Poles.

Seimas Ratifies Consular Convention With Moscow

WS0402131893 Tallinn BNS in English 2314 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 03, BNS—The Lithuanian Seimas on Tuesday [2 February] ratified the Lithuanian-Russian consular convention, which was signed in Moscow on Sept. 8.

Ceslovas Jursenas, acting speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament told BNS he hopes that the Russian Supreme Soviet would also ratify the document soon. This will "undoubtedly have a positive role to play," he said, "not only for upholding the rights and interests of the people, but it will also promote further cooperation between our countries in economic, political, social and other spheres."

The Parliament also adopted a law outlining the procedures for buying or leasing of land for diplomatic and consular missions. Under the new guidelines, foreign states can exchange land in Lithuania for similar plots abroad.

Apart from that, foreign diplomatic missions will have the right to rent plots of land for the terms specified in the countries' bilateral agreements in that regard for up to 99 years. Foreign states will pay for the land in hard currency in compliance with the provisions of the countries' bilateral agreements.

Jursenas Summarizes Results of Seimas' First Session

OW0402194693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1709 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The acting chairman of the Seimas (parliament) of the Lithuanian Republic, Ceslovas Jursenas, in summarizing the results of the Seimas' first session, which had just completed its work, said that the Lithuanian parliament has adopted 27 laws, 50 resolutions and 7 decisions.

In the words of Mr Jursenas, the parliament has fulfilled its primary tasks, which were to shape up the republic's power system and introduce amendments into the law which regulate the operation of the law-enforcement system. In addition, the Seimas coordinated its efforts with the republic's executive power in addressing economic issues, as a result of which the situation in the republic has become "more stable."

The second session of the Lithuanian parliament is due to open on February 17 after the presidential elections.

Adopts Law on Constitutional Court

WS0502131493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1556 GMT 4 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 179]

[Text] 4 February 1993—In conformity with the new Constitution, yesterday the Seimas adopted a law on establishing a novel independent institution—the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania. The Constitutional Court will see to it that newly-adopted laws and privileges of the supreme institutions of the state comply with the Constitution presenting its conclusions on issues envisaged in the Constitution and this particular law. The Constitutional Court will have to guarantee the supremacy of the Constitution in the legal system of Lithuania, the constitutional lawfulness. It will also have to present its conclusions to the Parliament and President on the compliance with the laws during Presidential and Parliamentary elections, on the state of health of President and his ability to fulfill his duties, on compliance of international agreements with the Constitution.

The Constitutional Court will consist of nine judges appointed for nine years service. The Seimas will enjoy the prerogative to appoint the judges three from each list of candidates submitted by President, Chairman of the Seimas and Chairman of the Supreme Court. On President's suggestion, the Parliament will appoint Chairman of the Constitutional Court selected from among the judges.

The judges of the Constitutional Court will not be allowed to participate in the activities of political parties and political organizations.

Acting Chairman of the Seimas Ceslovas Jursenas announced that 32 candidates to the 9 posts of the Constitutional Court Judges. He also said that, taking the advantage of his prerogative to propose three candidates, Chairman of the Supreme Court Mindaugas Losys nominated the candidacies of Liudvikas Sabutis, the former Supreme Council deputy, Stasys Staciokas, Docent of the Law Faculty at Vilnius University, Juozas Zilys, Head of the Seimas Juridical Department.

Agricultural Production in 1992 Drops to 1970's Level

WS0502130693 Tallinn BNS in English 1520 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 04, BNS—Lithuania's agricultural production in 1992 dropped to the level of the 1970s, or lower, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee Mykolas Pronskus said Wednesday [3 February].

Representatives of the Parliamentary Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party faction and members of the Parliamentary Agricultural Committee presented figures at a news briefing Wednesday, showing the actual situation in agriculture.

The state purchased 308,000 tons of grain in 1992, which is equal to the 1974 level; potatoes dropped to 57,000 tons or the 1975 level; vegetables, 24,000 tons or 1960 level; sugar beets, 555,000 tons or 1971 level; flax fiber, 3,000 tons or 1950 level; cattle and poultry, 483,000 tons or 1971 level; dairy products, 1.7 million tons or 1974 level.

Members of the Agricultural Committee noted that exact information about production of farmers and agricultural communities was unavailable.

Pronskus said that only big farms are promising. Almost 12,000 small farms, mainly unprofitable, appeared last year instead of the planned 1,000. Pronskus also noted that the main task right now is to find at least temporary owners for all cultivated land before spring.

Lubys Receives Tatarstan Vice President, Delegation

WS0502131693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1558 GMT 4 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 179]

[Text] 4 February 1993—As it was informed, a government delegation of Tatarstan headed by the Vice-President of the Republic Vasilij Likhakov has come to Lithuania on an official visit. Yesterday it was received by the Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys.

The dialogue between Lithuania and Tatarstan on the mutual economic cooperation started at the end of last year during the visit of a delegation of the Lithuanian government to Kazan. Now the Lithuanian Premier and the Tatarstan Vice-President discussed the practical realization of some projects—the export of oil and other raw materials to Lithuania and the realization of Lithuanian goods in Tatarstan, as well as the order of transits and mutual settlements. The two officials spoke about the future cooperation between the Kaunas Technological University and the Kazan University. The Lithuanian Prime Minister informed the guests about the economic reform and inner situation in Lithuania.

After the meeting the Tatarstan delegation went to Kaunas where it took part at the opening ceremony of the Tatarstan Trade Representatives. The guests visited an exhibition of the production of Lithuanian Industrial enterprises, the Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis Art Museum and the stock enterprise "Kauno Baldai" (Kaunas Furniture). At the mosque which had been recently returned for believers, the Tatarstan guests met with representative of the Lithuanian Tatars community.

Today the delegation is visiting Siauliai and Mazeikiai.